Philosophy 3: Ethics and Society (#2530)
El Camino College: Spring 2014
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Mark Pressman, Ph.D.
Class: Wednesdays 6:00—9:10 p.m. in SOCS 206
Office Hour: Fridays 8:00—9:00 a.m. in ARTB 320
email: hpressman@elcamino.edu


CATALOG DESCRIPTION: This course offers a critical study of the ethical theories and their application to problems of modern society. Ethical issues in government and law, social institutions, the arts, and international relations will be emphasized.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- 3 Take-Home Essays (5 pages/100 points each) = 300 points
- 10 In-Class Writings (1 page/10 points each) = 100 points

IN-CLASS WRITINGS:

- You can miss any 1 In-Class Writing without penalty since I replace your single lowest Writing score with your 2nd lowest score at semester’s end.
- You cannot make-up ANY OTHER In-Class Writing you miss for any reason.
- You have the last 50 minutes of class for the In-Class Writings.
- The In-Class Writings must be written and handed in at the end of class: they are short answers based on the readings and class discussions. You need the textbook but may not use the internet.
- If you do not put your name on your Writing, it loses 2 points.

LATE ESSAYS:

- Essays I and II lose 20 points each Wednesday (class session) they are late, no exceptions. Essay III will not be accepted late since it is your final exam.

POLICIES:

- If you are tardy to class it will affect your grade.
- On Wednesdays without an In-Class Writing, sign the sign-out sheet.
- During class, cell phones are to be turned off or you will have to leave.
- Any student discovered cheating or plagiarizing will earn a 0 on the assignment and be referred to the Dean for further disciplinary action and a permanent notation on your college transcript.
- Check your grade online at www.elcamino.edu
Use www.pressmanphilosophy.com for the essay topics and syllabus
• Keep all work I return until your final grade in the class is posted.
• Any student who doesn’t show up the first class will be dropped.
• You must drop the class by the deadline (4-18-14) or receive a Fail.

FINAL GRADE-POINT SCALE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>358-400</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>318-357</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>278-317</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>238-277</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-237</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
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</tbody>
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SCHEDULE:

Wednesday January 22: Introduction and Syllabus
Wednesday January 29: Read Introduction and Chapter 1 (pp.11-49)
Wednesday February 5: Read Chapter 2 (pp.50-78):
                      *In-Class Writing #1*
Wednesday February 12: Read Chapter 3 + Cases 1 and 2 (pp.79-111):
                       Essay I topic distributed
Wednesday February 19: Read Cases 3-5 (pp.112-131):
                       *In-Class Writing #2*
Wednesday February 26: Read Chapter 5 + Cases 12-14 (pp.199-234):
                       *In-Class Writing #3*
Wednesday March 5:    Read Cases 15-17 (pp.235-253):
                       *In-Class Writing #4*
Wednesday March 12:   Read Chapter 6 + Cases 18-20 (pp.254-301)
                       Essay II topic distributed
                       **Essay I due**
Wednesday March 19:   NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK
Wednesday March 26:   Read Cases 21-23 (pp.302-320)
                       *In-Class Writing #5*
Wednesday April 2:    Read Chapter 7 + Cases 24-26 (pp.321-390)
                       *In-Class Writing #6*
Wednesday April 9: Read Cases 27-29 (pp.391-409) 
**Essay II due**

Wednesday April 16: Read Chapter 8 + Cases 30-32 (pp.410-441) 
Essay Topic III distributed 
*In-Class Writing #7*

Wednesday April 23: Read Cases 33-35 (pp.442-462) 
*In-Class Writing #8*

Wednesday April 30: Read Chapter 9 + Cases 36-37 (pp.463-490) 
*In-Class Writing #9*

Wednesday May 7: Read Cases 38-40 (pp.491-502) 
*In-Class Writing #10*

Wednesday May 14: **Essay III due:** I will be in class from 8:00—9:00 p.m. to collect your Essay III.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: (1) Analyze and apply various sources of moral standards to specific moral problems. (2) Explain the difficulties of basing moral standards on supernaturalism, utility, reason, or egoism. (3) Determine whether moral values are relative to culture or universally applicable. (4) Analyze the concept of justice and determine whether it is defined by the laws of society or if justice is established by universal standards. (5) Distinguish teleological from deontological ethical theories by applying them to current issues in the media. (6) Compare the solutions to contemporary moral dilemmas resulting from the application of a teleological/consequentialist versus a deontological approach in areas such as euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide. (7) Evaluate ethical theories that either preclude or allow for free choice such as psychological Hedonism and ethics based on supernaturalism. (8) Differentiate varying notions of freedom and their impact on moral responsibility. (9) Discuss the relationship between ethical theory and metaphysics. (10) Examine the relationships among the concepts of freedom, responsibility, and theories of punishment. (11) Describe the different forms of Hedonism and relate them to contemporary moral theory, and apply these theories to various contemporary moral dilemmas. (13) Differentiate among various metaethical theories.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: (1) Students will be able to identify the primary moral theories, including Kantian duty ethics, Utilitarianism, and Virtue Ethics, distinguish the primary difference between the theories, and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each theory. (2) Students will be able to apply moral theories, including those of Utilitarianism, Kantian duty ethics, and Virtue Ethics to contemporary moral issues. (3) Students will be able to critically evaluate facts and arguments of both sides of contemporary moral issues.
REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS: El Camino College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. A student with a disability, who would like to request an academic accommodation, is responsible for identifying herself/himself to the instructor and to the Special Resource Center. To make arrangements for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resource Center.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT:

www.elcamino.edu/studentservices/activities/codeofconduct.asp

STUDENT RIGHTS AND GRIEVANCES:

www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/policies.asp