

Psychology 337
Psychological Ethics and Moral Philosophy
Fall 2012

Michelle Moon, Ph.D.

Phone: 805-437-2752

Office: Madera Hall 2409

Email: michelle.moon@csuci.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:00-11:45, and by appointment

Mondays: 12:00-2:50, del Norte Hall 1555

University Bulletin Description: This course provides students with a broad overview of some of the main philosophical and moral ideas that are used as a basis for resolving debates in psychology, the mental health fields and public health. This course will challenge students to develop their own capacities to analyze, criticize, evaluate, and construct policy-oriented arguments.

Objectives for the Course:

- ◆ Describe and explain philosophical systems of ethical thought and moral action (e.g., utilitarianism, philosophical egoism, deontological systems, absolutist systems, ethics of care systems.
- ◆ Pose and “solve” moral dilemmas according to the philosophical systems studied
- ◆ Develop conceptual tools and argumentative strategies to determine and evaluate assumptions, values, and information that underlie different positions on controversial ethical issues.
- ◆ Describe the relevant psychological theories associated with ethics and ethical behavior.
- ◆ Integrate classical philosophical and newer psychological systems of ethics.
- ◆ Refine oral, written, and critical thinking skills by class presentations, group work, and a literature review.

Required Texts:

Rachels, J. (2010). *The right thing to do* (5th ed.). McGraw Hill: Boston.

Thiroux, J.P. & Krasemann, K.W. (2009). *Ethics: Theory and Practice* (10th ed.).

Pearson/ Prentice Hall: New Jersey

Approximate Schedule

08/27	Introductions and overview.	
09/03	Labor Day – No classes	
09/10	ETHICS: The Nature of Morality ETHICS: Consequentialist (Teleological) Theories of Morality TRTTD: Chapters 3 and 4	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
09/17	ETHICS: Nonconsequentialist (Deontological) Theories of Morality ETHICS: Virtue Ethics	Chapter 3 Chapter 4
09/24	ETHICS: Absolutism versus Relativism ETHICS: Freedom versus Determinism Group Project (topic and member information) Due	Chapter 5 Chapter 6
10/01	ETHICS: Reward and Punishment ETHICS: The Taking of Human Life	Chapter 7 Chapter 9
10/08	ETHICS: Allowing Someone to Die, Mercy Death, and Mercy Killing TRTTD: Chapters 34, 35, and 36	Chapter 10
10/15	ETHICS: Abortion TRTTD: Chapters 11, 12 and 13	Chapter 11
10/22	ETHICS: Lying, Cheating, Breaking Promises and Stealing TRTTD: Chapter 26 TRTTD: Chapter 27	Chapter 12
10/29	ETHICS: Morality, Marriage, and Human Sexuality TRTTD: Chapters 28.29 and 30	Chapter 13
11/05	TRTTD: Chapters 17 and 18 TRTTD: Chapters 19, 20, 21. 22 and 23	
11/12	Veteran’s Day – No classes	
11/19	TRTTD: Chapters 24, and 25	
11/26	TRTTD: Chapters 31, 32, and 33 Term Paper Due Project Papers Due	

12/03 ETHICS: Environmental Ethics Chapter 16
TRTTD: Chapters 14, 15 and 16
Notebooks Due

12/10 **Final Exam** (On all readings) Note time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

ETHICS = Thiroux, J. & Krasemann
TRTTD = (The Right Thing to Do) Rachels

Notebooks:

1. Students will be presented with weekly topics throughout the semester and will write their personal reactions in a spiral notebook. Clearly identify and separate your topic responses from your reading notes. *Make sure you get the topic from a classmate if you miss a class.*
2. Students will summarize weekly readings in a spiral notebook. Students must write on the front and back sides of pages. Each page of notes will be divided with 1/3 of the page devoted to personal reactions, thoughts, and questions.

Notebooks will be reviewed and stamped weekly (points/stamp will not be given if the student is absent, or if work is turned in late). I highly recommend that you do not leave your notebook anywhere that it may be lost or stolen. Notebooks are due December 3. Late notebooks may be turned until by December 10; however, they will NOT be able to be used during the final exam. Notebook grades will be based on the following:

Stamp for work completed on time = 7 points

Reaction to topic = 3 points (10 points per week; 110 points total)

Reading Presentations: Students will lead the class discussion highlighting key points of the assigned reading. You should use creative and effective strategies to ***facilitate and encourage class discussion***. Students must present on the day they sign up. Make-up presentations will not be permitted. (15 points). Remember all of your classmates will have read the material.

Ideas for presentations:

- ❖ Provide discussion questions, supplemental readings, or special assignments the week prior.
- ❖ Use the “Exercises for Review” at the end of the chapter.
- ❖ Get creative and have fun.

Term Paper: A separate handout describing the details of this assignment will be distributed during class. This project is worth a total of 30 points. Due November 26. Late papers will NOT be accepted.

Final Exam: The final exam will be multiple choice and short answer. (Students will need the small bluish-green scantron) Students will be permitted to use their graded Notebooks during the exam. Notebooks turned in late, or not turned in will not be allowed during the exam. (80 points)

Group Project: Students will create projects where they “give back.” How, when and where you give back should be determined and approved by me, in writing, on or

before 09/24/2012. Get creative, and have the project be as small or large as you want. A two-page paper describing your efforts and feelings about your project (e.g., how you feel about the recipient(s), did these feelings change over the course of your project? Can you do something good without having a personal benefit? What about your future efforts to repeat this, or a similar, project—Discuss why you would, or would not, participate again.) Your grade for this assignment will be based on your planning and carrying out the project (5 points), as well as your paper summarizing your experience (20 points; 25 points total). You may work with one other student to complete your project, however, your papers must be written separately.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you require accommodations because of a disability, please make an appointment with me so that we may discuss your needs. You will be asked to supply a letter from the Office for Students with Disabilities to assist in planning any special accommodations.

Academic Dishonesty: If a student engages in any form of academic dishonesty in an Ethics and Moral Philosophy course...a course devoted to the understanding of moral behavior...ugh...this behavior may lead to failure in this class and a report to the appropriate University office for investigation.

Grading: Your grade for the course will be based on the total points earned for the Notebook (110 points), final exam (80 points), reading presentation (15 points), term paper (30 points), project (5 points), and project paper (20 points). 260 Maximum points.

Final Grade	%	Min points	Final Grade	%	Min points
A	95	247	C	75	195
A-	90	234	C-	70	182
B+	88	228	D+	68	176
B	85	221	D	65	169
B-	80	208	D-	60	156
C+	78	202	F		155 and below