## PHI 2630-02: Ethical Issues and Life Choices Summer Semester 2002 MTWR 9:10 – 10:45 a.m., 231 WJB (William Johnson Bldg.)

## Instructor

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## **Teaching Assistant**

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#### **Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to expose students to the complexity of a number of thorny ethical issues: abortion, free speech, war & terrorism, cloning, affirmative action, and the death penalty. Students will not be expected to learn the "right answers" to questions about these issues, but they will be expected to learn how to appreciate the arguments presented by different sides, so they can think more clearly about the issues and give fair treatment to people whose beliefs differ from their own. For this reason, students are expected to learn a certain amount of abstract moral theory. It is understanding these moral theories that will allow students to understand better the reasons why people think some action or event is right or wrong. Finally, the students will have the opportunity to defend philosophical positions in writing.

## **Required** Text

Cahn, Steven M. and Peter Markie. 2002. *Ethics: History, Theory, and Contemporary Issues*, (New York: Oxford University Press). Otherwise known as "CM"

\*Readings will be on reserve in Strozier and when possible on the web.

**Assignments:** Reading assignments will be issued during each class meeting. Since this is a philosophy course where reading is essential, students are *strongly* encouraged to do the readings before the lecture on that assignment. This practice will reinforce basic information while providing students the opportunity to formulate pertinent questions about difficult material for the upcoming lecture. If you do not do the readings, this class will be extremely difficult.

## Graded assignments will include:

- 1. At least 6 quizzes; if there are more than 6, then only the best 6 will count towards the student's final grade,
- 2. Reading précis. The best 7 will count toward the student's final grade. Précis must be turned in at the beginning of class and must be at least one full typed page (at least 250 words).
- 3. One essay exam. (You will have to supply 2 blue books before the end of week 1)
- 4. One 1,200-word paper. (There will be a handout explaining topics and requirements.)

**Grading:** Since this course satisfies the liberal studies area IV requirement (Gordon Rule), students who fail to write at least 3000 words will receive a grade lower than C-. Assignments will count toward the final grade as follows:

The exam, the paper, the précis average, and the quiz average will all count as  $1/4^{\text{th}}$  of your final grade. To determine your grade, add all four totals together and divide by four—that will be your course score. Take the course score and find where it falls on the scale below.

Final grades will be assessed on the following scale:

100-93 A	86-83 B	76-73 Č	66-63 D
92-90 A-	82-80 B-	72-70 C-	62-60 D-
89-87 B+	79-77 C+	69-67 D+	59-00 F

**Attendance:** Attendance is *not* mandatory, and will *not* be a factor in the determination of final grades. Nevertheless, because of the abstract character of much of the material covered in this course, regular attendance is *strongly* recommended. Additionally, students should make every effort to be on time to class for late arrivals are disruptive and rude to both the instructor and fellow students. Leaving class early is equally disruptive. So, students that need to leave early should notify the instructor at the beginning of class, and sit where it will minimize disturbance.

Late Policy: All late work must be accompanied by written documentation from a health care provider (or other appropriate source; further legitimate excuses may include religious and university obligations) explaining why the student was unable to complete the assignment on time. If a written excuse it not possible, see me to discuss the issue. When possible, I should be informed *before* the assigned work is due. When these conditions are satisfied, appropriate accommodations will be made for the student to complete the missed assignment. When these conditions are not satisfied, the following conditions hold:

- 1. Quizzes cannot be made up.
- 2. All papers and précis are due at the *beginning* of class.
  - (i) Précis cannot be turned in after the class for which the reading is assigned.
  - (ii) 5 points will be deducted from papers [2 from précis] received after the beginning, but before the termination, of the class period in which they are due.
  - (iii) For papers received after the end of the class in which they are due, 10 points will be deducted for each 24 hour period following the end of that class. For example, 10 points will be deducted from a paper submitted an hour after the relevant class period, while 20 points will be deducted form a paper submitted 25 hours after the end of the same class. Late penalties will be assessed for the time at which papers are *received*. "Received" means handed to the instructor, the teaching assistant, or philosophy department staff that signs and writes the time and date on the paper before putting it in a mailbox. It is your responsibility to make sure that papers are turned in on time.
- 3. The exam cannot be made up.

**Honor Code:** Students must uphold the Academic Honor Code published in *The Florida State University Bulletin* and the *Student Handbook*. Violations of the honor code may result in an 'F' for the course or other disciplinary action. On-line at: http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/undergrad

**Students with Disabilities:** Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with disability. Such students must (1) register with, and provide documentation to, the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC), and (2) submit a letter from SDRC stating that such academic accommodations are needed. All relevant documentation should be submitted within the first week of classes or as soon as a disability is identified.

# **Course Schedule**

•	25 June 2002 26 June 2002 27 June 2002 1 July 2002 2 July 2002 3 July 2002 4 July 2002 8 July 2002 9 July 2002 10 July 2002 11 July 2002	Inductive Log Aristotle Nice Bentham Intr Mill Utilita Kant G. of M Kant Independence Ross The Ri Rachels Chal Held Reason Review Day	omachean Ethics co: Prin. & Moral Leg. crianism Metaphysics of Morals	Website pp. 130-184 (Sections) pp. 326-342 pp. 343-378 (Sections) pp. 278-325 (Sections) Cont. pp. 477-487 pp. 645-652		
•	15 July 2002	Exam				
Tuesday	16 July 2002		Free Speech			
	lings to come.					
Wednesday	17 July 2002	5 154 10	Pornography			
-		5-154; and Gar	ry, pp. 126-135.			
Thursday	18 July 2002	Stan at the of the	<u>Gun Control</u>			
	•		e Second Amendment"	attl/anna htm		
		ontrol http://w	ww.asahi-net.or.jp/~zj5j- War and Terrorism	-gui/guiis.htm		
Monday *Will	22 July 2002	• "The Conduct	t of Just and Limited War	<b>,</b> 29		
	ie Calhoun: "Th					
Tuesday	23 July 2002	ie renonst s r	Capital Punishment			
•	•	the Death nen	alty" in <b>CM</b> pp. 840-849			
	, "Capital Puni					
Wednesday	24 July 2002		Affirmative Action			
•	son, "Preferenti	ial Hiring" in <b>C</b>				
	n, "A Reply to T	-				
Thursday	25 July 2002		<u>AA &amp; Reparations</u>			
	~	s of Affirmativ	e Action" in CM pp. 877	-883.		
			ations for Blacks is a Ba			
Racist Too" go to: http://www.frontpagemag.com/notepad/default.htm						
Monday	29 July 2002	1 1	Abortion			
Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion" in CM pp. 739-750						
Tooley, "Abortion and Infanticide" in <b>CM</b> pp. 766-772						
Tuesday 30 July 2002 <u>Cloning</u>						
*Evers, "The Identity of Clones"						
*Pynes, "Some Cloning Arguments" Web.						
Wednesday31 July 2002Moral Status						
*Warren, Moral Status sections						
*Pynes, "Defining Moral Status" Web						
Thursday1 August 2002Final Paper Due						

If you have any questions about the syllabus, please do not hesitate to ask for clarification.