Instructors
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Office Hours: MW 10-11; TR 9-10; W 7-8 p.m.; and by appointment

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Course Description
Overview of ethical theories and basic principles of ethical reasoning. Application to ethical problems arising in public policy debates and in the practice of various professional fields.

We will begin by studying the nature of philosophical approaches to ethics, and to ethical argumentation. We will then examine and discuss a variety of ethical theories and principles; and in the remainder of the course we will put this background to use in an exploration of ethical problems that arise in professional life.

Course Organization
Class meetings will be divided into two types: lectures and discussion section meetings. The lectures, given by Andy Piker in CI 113, will be concerned with general philosophical and ethical issues related to professional activity. There will be six discussion sections, focusing on issues that arise in specific areas of professional life. The following list indicates the discussion section leaders, the section numbers, the places where the sections will meet, and the main focus of each section:

Alan Clark, section 011, CI 106, Arts and Humanities
Glenn Tiller, section 012, CCH 104, Business
Don Berkich, section 013, CI 108, Science and Technology
Gilda Ramirez, section 014, CCH 110, Education
Catherine Albert, section 015, CCH 116, Arts and Humanities
Max Gouverne, section 016, ST 106, Science and Technology

Each student is expected to attend the lectures, as well as the meetings of his or her discussion section. Questions and comments are encouraged in both the lectures and the discussion section meetings.
The class will also involve an online component, in which students engage in online discussion of ethical issues. See “Graded Assignments” and “More on Online Assignments” below for information on that component.

**Objectives**
The course objectives fall into three main categories:
1) Content: as a result of taking this course, you should acquire some understanding of a variety of issues in ethical theory, and of various ethical problems that arise in professional practice and life.
2) Skill: The course should enable you to develop a degree of proficiency in recognizing, evaluating, and constructing ethical arguments on more than one side of a moral issue.
3) Motivation: The instructors hope that you will strengthen your interest in ethical thought and issues, continue thinking about ethical values and issues, and continue to develop your own views on ethical issues.

**Graded Assignments**
First test (10% of your overall grade); second test (15%); discussion section assignments to be determined by the section leaders (totaling 40% of your overall grade); online assignments (totaling 20% of your overall grade); and a final exam (15%). Many of the above assignments will involve material covered only in the lectures, so lecture attendance is likely to have a significant impact on students’ grades. All grades will be assigned on the standard scale: 90%-100%=A, 80%-89%=B, 70%-79%=C, 60%-69%=D, 59% and below=F. Each student’s assignments (including online assignments) will be graded by her/his discussion section instructor.

**More on Online Assignments**
Completion of ten online assignments is required of each student (each assignment is worth 2% of the overall course grade). The assignments will begin in the fifth week of the semester, and conclude at the end of the fourteenth week (see course schedule for due dates).

Each online assignment will consist of a written response related to an article or case study posted online (on the website for the course: ethics.tamu.edu) by your section instructor. You may either a) respond directly to the article or case study, or b) respond to the comments posted by other students (all student responses will be posted anonymously online).

The grading criteria for the online assignments will be as follows:
- focus on at least one ethical issue relevant to the article/case. In other words, focus on whether an act, practice, or policy relevant to the article/case is (or was, or would be) ethically justified;
- inclusion of reasons for the ethical view(s) presented;
- application of at least one ethical principle or theory to the ethical issue(s);
- minimum of 50 words;
- quality of the application of each ethical theory or principle (e.g., thoroughness, correct understanding of the theory or principle);
- strength of the reasons presented for ethical view(s);
- clarity and organization (including division into paragraphs when appropriate)
**Attendance Policies for Sections**
Discussion section leaders will determine the attendance policies for their sections.

**Make-up Tests and Incompletes**
Students who miss a test for a good reason will have a chance to take a make-up test during the week after the original test, at a time arranged with the instructor. Discussion section leaders will determine policies governing late work on discussion section assignments. An incomplete for the course is possible only in cases where course work is nearly complete, and the student has a legitimate reason for not completing the course work by the end of the semester.

**Plagiarism and Other Forms of Academic Dishonesty**
Plagiarism is the presentation of work as one’s own, that was in fact produced by another author (e.g., the submission of a paper as one’s own work, when it was written by someone else; or the submission of a portion of a paper written by another author, without citing the source of the material). University policy strictly prohibits plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. The penalty for an act of academic dishonesty will be determined by the instructor responsible for the grading of the assignment in question.

**Readings**
No hard copy text is required for the course (except in Education discussion sections). All readings may be accessed online at the course website: ethics.tamu.edu

**Course Schedule**
*Discussion section meetings have been explicitly indicated; all other meetings are lectures.*

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<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>Orientation</th>
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| 17      | Part I: Introduction to Philosophical Ethics  
The Nature of Philosophical Ethics  
Constructing and Evaluating Ethical Arguments |
| 19      | Part II: Ethical Theories and Principles  
Consequentialism |
| 24      | Discussion Section Meetings |
| 31      | Consequentialism, continued |
| February | 2 | Discussion Section Meetings |
| 7       | Consequentialism, continued  
Non-Consequentialism (Deontology)  
Articles/cases for online assignments 1 & 2 posted (on course website) |
| 9       | Discussion Section Meetings |
| 14      | Non-Consequentialism (Deontology), continued |
| 16      | TEST (in discussion section rooms) |
21  Non-Consequentialism (Deontology), continued  
    Online assignments 1 & 2 due  
    Articles/cases for online assignments 3 & 4 posted  
23  Discussion Section Meetings  

28  Justice and Contractarian Ethics  

March  
2  Discussion Section Meetings  

7  Justice and Contractarian Ethics, continued  
    Online assignments 3 & 4 due  
    Articles/cases for online assignments 5 & 6 posted  
9  Discussion Section Meetings  

14  SPRING BREAK  
16  SPRING BREAK  

21  Part III: Ethical Problems in Professional Life  
    Truth and Adversarial Deception  
23  Discussion Section Meetings  

28  Truth and Adversarial Deception, continued  
    Online assignments 5 & 6 due  
    Articles/cases for online assignments 7 & 8 posted  
30  TEST (in discussion section rooms)  

April  
4  Truth, Paternalism, and Paternalistic Deception  
    Discussion Section Meetings  
6  Discussion Section Meetings  

11  Truth, Paternalism, and Paternalistic Deception, continued  
    Online assignments 7 & 8 due  
    Articles/cases for online assignments 9 & 10 posted  
13  Discussion Section Meetings  
18  Discussion Section Meetings  
20  Discussion Section Meetings  
25  Discussion Section Meetings  
    Online assignments 9 & 10 due  
27  Discussion Section Meetings  

May  
2  Discussion Section Meetings  

Final Exam: Thursday, May 4, 2:00-4:30 (in discussion section rooms)