FOUNDATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

Philosophy 3340.003
Spring 2008
Lecture CI-113
Tuesday 4:00-5:15

Prof. Glenn Tiller
Faculty Center Room 268
Phone: 825-6008
Email: glenn.tiller@tamucc.edu
Office Hours: Monday 2:30-5:00; Tuesday 11:00-1:30; and by appointment.

Course Description
This course is an introduction to contemporary ethical theories and their application to a number of practical issues. We will begin with an overview of ethics and discuss the nature of ethical reasoning. Next we will examine several major ethical theories. These theories will provide us with a critical basis for exploring a number of current ethical problems and debates.

Course Objectives
Successful completion of the course will provide you with a deeper understanding of nature of ethical reasoning and an improved set of skills for evaluating and justifying actions. The instructors hope that you will strengthen your interest in ethical thought and issues, continue thinking about ethical values, and continue to develop your own views on ethical issues.

Course Organization
Class meetings will be divided into two types: (1) lectures and (2) discussion section meetings. The lectures, given by Glenn Tiller in CI 113 on Tuesday at 4:00, 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. These sections meet on Thursday at 4:00.

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:

Catherine Albert: section 115, CCH 116, Liberal Arts
Office: MB 106.
Phone: 438-1608
Email: texwexer@yahoo.com

Andy Piker: section 123, CCH 104, Science & Technology
Office: Faculty Center, Room 276
Phone: 825-6035
Email: andrew.piker@tamucc.edu
James Rhyne: section 124, CI 122, Business
Office: Faculty Center, Room 291A
Phone: 825-6044
Email: james.rhyne@tamucc.edu

Glenn Tiller: section 122, CI 109, Liberal Arts
Office: Faculty Center, Room 268
Phone: 825-6008
Email: glenn.tiller@tamucc.edu

Attendance & Participation
Official class roll for the main lecture will not be taken; and each discussion section leader
determines the attendance policy for his or her section. However all materials discussed in
the lectures and covered in the readings are the potential basis for test and exam questions.
Students are therefore expected to attend all lectures and keep up with assigned readings. In
general, if you don’t attend class, don’t expect to pass. Since participation can only help one’s
grade and never hurt, it is important to attend class and engage with the weekly readings and
discussions.

Freedom of Speech & Classroom Etiquette
You are free to ask any question you please about the material. In many cases if you did not
understand something, this is because it was not explained clearly to you, so you will be
doing your colleagues and yourself a service if you request clarification. You are also free to
argue for any ethical position you find compelling, as long as you provide reasons for your point of
view. It is inevitable that during discussions individual points of view will differ. When they
do, our reaction will always be to patiently listen to the reasons offered for a particular ethical
conclusion and cooperatively evaluate those reasons.

E-etiquette
Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, etc, before entering the classroom. If your cell phone
rings (or sings) during class, I will stop the lecture and answer it for you. If you feel the urge
to text message or make a call, please leave the classroom and do not return (until next
class). The lectures are for lecturing and discussion. Any student who disrupts a lecture by
using a personal electronic device will be asked to leave. : o(

Make-up Tests & Incompletes
Students who miss a test for a good reason (e.g. medical) 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.

Text
The required text for the main lecture is *The Elements of Moral Philosophy* 5th edition, ed. James
determine readings for your discussion group.
Graded Assignments
First test (10% of your overall grade); second test (15%); final exam (25%); discussion section assignments to be determined by the section leaders (totaling 50% of your overall grade). 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 will be graded by his or her discussion section instructor.

Course Schedule
*All readings refer to The Elements of Moral Philosophy 5th edition.

January
17 Discussion Section Meetings
22 Introduction & Course Mechanics
24 Discussion Section Meetings
29 What Is Morality? (chpt. 1)
31 Discussion Section Meetings

February
5 The Challenge Of Cultural Relativism (chpt. 2)
7 Discussion Section Meetings
12 Does Morality Depend On Religion? (chpt. 4)
14 Discussion Section Meetings
19 Ethical Egoism (chpt. 5)
21 TEST #1
26 The Utilitarian Approach (chpt. 6)
28 Discussion Section Meetings

March
4 The Debate Over Utilitarianism (chpt. 7)
6 Discussion Section Meetings
11 Are There Absolute Moral Rules? (chpt.8)
13 Discussion Section Meetings
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Kant And Respect For Persons (chpt. 9)</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Discussion Section Meetings</td>
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**April**

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<td>The Idea Of A Social Contract (chpt. 10)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Discussion Section Meetings</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>TEST #2</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Feminism And The Ethics Of Care (chpt. 11)</td>
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<td>Discussion Section Meetings</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>The Ethics Of Virtue (chpt. 12)</td>
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<td>Discussion Section Meetings</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>What Would A Satisfactory Moral Theory Be Like? (chpt. 13)</td>
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**May**

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<td>6</td>
<td>Course Review</td>
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**The Fine Print**

For all matters concerning course withdrawal, appeal of grades, academic misconduct, etc, students are strongly advised to consult the rules outlined in the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Student Handbook and on the web at: [http://studentaffairs.tamucc.edu/](http://studentaffairs.tamucc.edu/).