

Introduction to Ethics

Phil 1100, Sec. 9 (84683)

TR 11:00 am – 12:15 pm * 1220 Center Hall

Spring 2009

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor	Dr. Melanie Johnson-Moxley 436 Strickland Hall Cell phone: (573) 529-2703 * Office phone: (573) 884-1382 Email: johnsonmoxley@missouri.edu			
Office Hours	TR 9:30 – 10:30 a.m., 436 Strickland Hall Sat 10 – Noon, Bengal Lair (next to Starbuck's), Memorial Union North I am also very responsive to email—please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions. Please note that I am unavailable for appointments on MWF due to my teaching commitments on another campus.			
Course Description	This course is an issues-centered, applied introduction to ethical theory, designed to provide you with the language and analytical tools for examining, discussing and evaluating contemporary moral issues: human cloning and stem cell research, abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, animal rights, environmental ethics, sexual morality, discrimination, welfare and social justice, civil liberties, war and terrorism, and computer/internet ethics. Desired outcomes include the ability to critically assess moral arguments by identifying and evaluating their component premises and logical structure.			
Text	Jeffrey Olen, Julie C. Van-Camp and Vincent Barry, <i>Applying Ethics: A Text with Readings</i> , Ninth Edition (2008 Thomson/Wadsworth Publishing)			
Course Requirements	MOCK QUIZZES There will be a series of 12 “mock quizzes,” given for credit-only. The purpose of the mock quiz is to help you evaluate your understanding of the course material at regular intervals and give you an idea what kind of exam questions I may ask. REACTION ESSAYS There will be a series of 10 short “reaction essays,” also a credit-only assignment, based on case presentations read at the end of each chapter. These will give you an opportunity to think about the issues we are discussing and practice writing your thoughts in a succinct, clear manner. You will have an opportunity to discuss these cases with a permanently assigned discussion group during class time prior to submitting your assignment. Essays will be a minimum of 150 words and a maximum of 250 words, submitted through Blackboard in Microsoft Word format. EXAMS There will be two exams, a mid-term examination covering the first half of the course material, and a comprehensive final examination emphasizing material from the second half of the semester. Some class time will be devoted to exam review and optional review sessions will be offered on the Saturday prior to each exam. See the course schedule for details.			
Grade Distribution	<i>Grading Component</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Total Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
	Mock quizzes	12 x 15 pts. each	180	18%
	Reaction essays	10 x 15 pts. each	150	15%
	Mid-term exam	1 x 250 pts.	250	25%
	Final exam	1 x 400 pts.	400	40%
	<u>Class participation</u>	<u>20 pts.</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>2%</u>
	Course Total		1000	100%

Grading Scale	Superior/Excellent		VG / Above Average		Average		Below Average/Failing	
	A+	98-100	B+	88-89	C+	78-79	D+	68-69
	A	93-97	B	83-87	C	73-77	D	60-67
	A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	F	0-59

Class Conduct

RESPECT

Respect for one's self and for others is the foundation of honor and the basis of integrity. A hallmark of our community is respect—for the process by which we seek truths and for those who engage in that process. Such respect is essential for nurturing the free and open discourse, exploration, and creative expression that characterize a university.... *Respect is demonstrated by a commitment to act ethically, to welcome difference, and to engage in open exchange about both ideas and decisions.* -- Excerpted from "A Statement of Values," *The M-Book*, p. 41. All emphasis mine.

In addition to the rules governing student behavior detailed in the *M-Book*, the following rules are in effect for this class:

- Arrive to class on time.
- Do not plan to leave early without making arrangements with me in advance (except, of course, in cases of illness or emergency).
- Turn off cell phones, pagers, I-pods, etc.
- Laptops are permitted for taking notes.
- Food is not permitted; however, most beverages are encouraged.
- Be respectful when others are speaking.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful.

The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

Intellectual Pluralism

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions concerning the quality of instruction in this class may address concerns to either the Departmental Chair (Dr. Andrew Melnyk, 435 Strickland Hall, melnyk@missouri.edu) or Director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities (<http://osrr.missouri.edu>).

All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor at the end of the course.

ADA

If you need accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform me immediately. Please see me privately after class, or at my office.

To request academic accommodations (for example, a note taker), students must also register with the Office of Disability Services (<http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu>) located in S5 Memorial Union, phone 882-4696. This is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting academic accommodations and for accommodations planning in cooperation with students and instructors, as needed and consistent with course requirements. For other MU resources for students with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

COURSE SCHEDULE

01	Tue. 1/20	Course Introduction Discussion groups established
02	Thur. 1/22	Ch. 1: Moral Reasons , pp. 2-22
03	Tue. 1/27	- Moral Virtue: Aristotle, pp. 22-33 - Respect for Persons: Immanuel Kant, pp. 34-9
04	Thur. 1/29	Mock Quiz No. 1 (Moral Reasons, Aristotle, Kant) - Utilitarianism: John Stuart Mill, pp. 40-5 - Baier, "The Need for More Than Justice," pp. 45-53
05	Tue. 2/3	Ch. 2: Good Reasoning , p. 54, 73 - Moral arguments, pp. 58-59 - Evaluating moral arguments, pp. 60-69 - Fallacies, pp. 70-72
06	Thur. 2/5	Mock Quiz No. 2 (Mill, Baier, Moral Arguments) Ch. 6: Human Cloning and Stem Cell Research , pp. 228-237 - Tooley, "The Moral Status of Cloning Humans," pp. 251-63
07	Tue. 2/10	- Lauritzen, "Stem Cells, Biotechnology and Human Rights: Implications for a Posthuman Future," pp. 274-84 Discussion groups— - Case Presentation: "Recommendations of the President's Council on Bioethics," pp. 284-7 - Case Presentation: "Presidential Policy," pp. 288-91 ++ Reaction essay No. 1 due by 5 pm on Friday, 2/13
08	Thur. 2/12	Mock Quiz No. 3 (Human Cloning and Stem Cell Research) Ch. 4: Abortion , pp. 127-138 - Noonan, "An Almost Absolute Value in History," pp. 138-143 - Hursthouse, "Virtue Theory and Abortion," pp. 166-173
09	Tue. 2/17	- Warren, "On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion," pp. 155-66 Discussion groups— - Case Presentation: "Conceived in Violence, Born in Hate," pp. 173-4 - Case Presentation: "Sex Selection Abortions," pp. 176-7 ++ Reaction essay No. 2 due by 5 pm on Friday, 2/20
**	Thur. 2/19	NO CLASS
10	Tue. 2/24	Mock Quiz No. 4 (Abortion) Ch. 5: Euthanasia , pp. 178-92 - Gay-Williams, "The Wrongfulness of Euthanasia," pp. 192-6 - Rachels, "Active and Passive Euthanasia," pp. 196-200
11	Thur. 2/26	- Foot, "Euthanasia," pp. 200-216 Discussion groups— - Case Presentation: "A Choice Central to Personal Dignity," pp. 223-4 - Case Presentation: "Terry Schiavo: Voluntary Euthanasia or Murder?" pp. 225-7 ++ Reaction essay No. 3 due by 5 pm on Saturday, 2/28
12	Tue. 3/3	Mock Quiz No. 5 (Euthanasia) Ch. 7: Capital Punishment , pp. 293-303 - Van den Haag, "On Deterrence and the Death Penalty," pp. 312-21
13	Thur. 3/5	- Bedau, "Capital Punishment and Social Defense," pp. 321-329 Discussion groups— - Case Presentation: "J.D. Autrey: Death in Texas," pp. 329-30 - Case Presentation: "Karla Faye Tucker and Stanley 'Tookie' Williams: Rehabilitation on Death Row?" pp. 330-1 ++ Reaction essay No. 4 due by 5 pm on Saturday, 3/7
**	Sat. 3/7	Optional Review Session (Time TBA, Memorial Union Bengal Lair)
14	Tue. 3/10	Mock Quiz No. 6 (Capital Punishment) Review for Exam
15	Thur. 3/12	MID-TERM EXAM (regular class time)

16	Tue. 3/17	Ch. 11: Animal Rights and Environmental Ethics , pp. 452-64 - Regan, "The Case for Animal Rights," pp. 477-85
17	Thur. 3/19	- Taylor, "The Ethics of Respect for Nature," pp. 485-96 - Baxter, "People or Penguins," pp. 497-501 Discussion groups— - Case Presentation: "Animal Liberators," pp. 501-2 - Case Presentation: "The Spotted Owl," pp. 504-5 ++ Reaction essay No. 5 due by 5 pm on Saturday, 3/21
**	Tue. 3/24	NO CLASS
**	Thur. 3/26	NO CLASS
18	Tue. 3/31	Mock Quiz No. 7 (Animal Rights and Environmental Ethics) Ch. 3: Sexual Morality , pp. 76-86 - Goldman, "Plain Sex," pp. 93-104 Discussion groups— - Case Presentation: "Disease v. Promiscuity?" p. 119 - Case Presentation: "Lawrence v. Texas: Private Rights and Public Morality," pp. 120-2
19	Thur. 4/2	- Levin, "Why Homosexuality is Abnormal," pp. 104-10 - Murphy, "Homosexuality and Nature," pp. 111-8 Discussion groups— - Case Presentation: "Goodridge v. Dept. of Public Health: A Right of Gay Marriage," pp. 122-5 ++ Reaction essay No. 6 due by 5 pm on Saturday, 4/4
20	Tue. 4/7	Mock Quiz No. 8 (Sexual Morality) Ch. 10: Discrimination , pp. 411-23 - Wasserstrom, "A Defense of Programs of Preferential Treatment," pp. 432-6
21	Thur. 4/9	- Beauchamp, "The Justification of Reverse Discrimination," pp. 424-32 - Newton, "Reverse Discrimination as Unjustified," pp. 442-5 Discussion groups— - Case Presentation: "Proposition 209," p. 446 - Case Presentation: "Grutter v. Bollinger: Taking Race into Account," pp. 447-8 ++ Reaction essay No. 7 due by 5 pm on Saturday, 4/11
22	Tue. 4/14	Mock Quiz No. 9 (Discrimination) Ch. 9: Welfare and Social Justice , pp. 362-73 - Govier, "The Right to Eat and the Duty to Work," pp. 381-90
23	Thur. 4/16	- Hospers, "What Libertarianism Is," pp. 373-80 - Nielsen, "Radical Egalitarianism," pp. 390-9 Discussion groups— - Case Presentation: "Marta Green," pp. 406-7 - Case Presentation: "Welfare as We've Begun to Know It," 408-9 ++ Reaction essay No. 8 due by 5 pm on Saturday, 4/18
24	Tue. 4/21	Mock Quiz No. 10 (Welfare and Social Justice) Ch. 8: War, Terrorism, and Civil Liberties , pp. 334-43 - Frey and Morris, "Violence, Terrorism, and Justice," pp. 343-9
25	Thur. 4/23	- Dershowitz, "Make Torture an Option," pp. 349-50 - Luban, "Torture and the Ticking Bomb," pp. 351-53 - Cole, "National Security State," pp. 353-6 Discussion groups— - Case Presentation: "Preemptive War," pp. 356-8 - Case Presentation: "The Geneva Conventions and Guantanamo Bay," p. 361 ++ Reaction essay No. 9 due by 5 pm on Saturday, 4/25
26	Tue. 4/28	Mock Quiz No. 11 (War, Terrorism and Civil Liberties) Ch. 12: Computer Ethics and the Internet , pp. 506-15 - Tribe, "The Constitution in Cyberspace: Law and Liberty Beyond the Electronic Frontier," pp. 515-22

27	Thur. 4/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spinello, "Free Speech in Cyberspace," pp. 522-9 - Tavani and Grodzinsky, "Cyberstalking, Personal Privacy, and Moral Responsibility," pp. 532-41 <p>Discussion groups—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Case Presentation: "Censoring Political Speech," p. 543 - Case Presentation: "Pirates of the Campuses," pp. 543-4 <p>++ Reaction essay No. 10 due by 5 pm on Saturday, 5/2</p>
28	Tue. 5/5	<p>Mock Quiz No. 12 (Computer Ethics and the Internet)</p> <p>Course evaluations</p> <p>Review for Final Exam</p>
29	Thur. 5/7	Review for Final Exam
**	Fri., 5/8	Optional Review Session (10 am - Noon, Memorial Union Bengal Lair)
**	Sat. 5/9	Optional Review Session (10 am - Noon, Memorial Union Bengal Lair)
30	Mon. 5/11	FINAL EXAM 8 – 10 a.m., held in regular classroom

GETTING HELP

1. See the section on my office hours at the top of the course syllabus. I am always happy to talk with you one-on-one regarding the course material, or to work with you through email.
2. You can arrange a study session with members of your class discussion group, or others you may know in the class. Sometimes you can learn more easily (or in a different way) from other students in a smaller group setting than in formal review sessions. You can always bring unresolved questions from such study sessions to me for review.
3. If you encounter profound difficulties during the semester, you may also request a tutor from the Student Success Center on Lowry Mall (next to McDonald's). You can find out the details of this process by dropping by the Success Center and speaking to a counselor