**Ethics in Science and Technology**

**Revised Saturday 13 February. Changes in Red**

PHI 3626 0W61

3 Semester Hours Credit

Spring 2016

Don Jones

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1. **Instructor**

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Office Hours M, T, W, F 11:30-1, and, by arrangement

Optional Online Chat Room virtual office hours announced from week to

**B. Course Description in UCF Catalog**

PR: COP 3502C or DIG 2000 or PHI 2647. Recent research in critical thinking applied to ethics in science and technology.

Fall, Spring.

**C. Course Texts**

All readings for the course are online. Reading guidelines posted in the Files area in folders entitled “Readings for Quiz One”, “Readings for Quiz Two”, and so on.

**D. Course Grade** (Each Part Counts One Quarter of Course Grade)

Quizzes (Top 3 of 4) Each With 10 Multiple Choice plus one Online Short-Answer Writing

Exam One 25 Multiple Choice, Online Short Answer Writings, One 2-3 Page Essay Submitted to Turnitin.com Selected From List of 5.

Exam Two 25 Multiple Choice, Online Short Answer Writings, One 2-3 Page Essay Submitted to Turnitin.com Selected From List of 5.

Comprehensive Final Exam 25 Multiple Choice, Online Short Answer Writings, One 2-3 Page Essay Submitted to Turnitin.com Selected From List of 5.

Plus-Minus. We will not use the plus minus grading system.

General Grading Criteria for Essays: Clarity of thesis, support for thesis, awareness of objections to thesis and its supporting reasoning, response to objections, overall logical coherence, and quality of writing.

Discussion Postings: Discussion postings are not required at any time in the course. Nevertheless, lots of optional discussion will take place in the Discussion area. You can get credit for Discussions postings that are related to course content. Points are allocated according to the guidelines at the end of this syllabus. Discussion points can be substituted for credit on the next upcoming 2-3 page essay (not for multiple choice and not for online short answer writing). The 2-3 page essay is worth 25 possible points.

If you get 25 or more points from Discussion postings, then you automatically get full credit for the next upcoming 2-3 page essay and are exempt from writing it. I will take care of this automatically—you don’t need to request it. Additional points, more than 25, are applied toward the subsequent essay.

If you get fewer than 25 points, those can be applied to reduce the length of the upcoming essay. So, for example, if you got 13 points in discussion postings by the time the first essay was due, your essay length would only need to be approximately one half of 2-3 pages.

I will try to upgrade your Discussion posting points totals at least once week. At any time, if you would like to know your updated total and you don’t see it posted online in the Grades section, just email me at donjones@ucf.edu and I can send it to you.

Warning: Please be very careful to avoid plagiarism in essays and in Discussion postings. In general, you are most welcome, indeed encouraged, to seek outside sources (written, online, or in-person) for material but must report the source, including page numbers. Paraphrases and direct quotations should be in quotation marks and footnoted. You are welcome to use an informal footnote style by inserting a brief reference inside parentheses in your text that refers to an item that you list in a bibliography at the end of your paper.

The consequences of plagiarism will be an “F” on the assignment, a possible “F” on the exam (if it occurs on an exam), a possible “F” in the course, and required recommendation to Student Conduct for further disciplinary action, including dismissal from UCF.

**E. Calendar for Course Quizzes and Exams**

Quiz 1 Opens Saturday 13 February Closes Saturday 20 February (Left Open Extra Time Because of the Delays)

Essay Topics Announced for Exam One Announced Saturday 13 February Due Tuesday 22 March

Quiz 2 Opens Saturday 27 February Closes Tuesday 1 March

Spring Break Week of Monday 7 March

Exam One Multiple Choice Opens Saturday 19 March Closes Tuesday 22 March (Essay Topics Announced Saturday13 February Due Tuesday 22 March)

Withdrawal Date Midnight Wednesday 23 March

Quiz 3 Opens Saturday 2 April Closes Tuesday 5 April

Essay Topics Announced for Exam Two Both Announced Saturday 2 April; Exam Two Essays Due Tuesday 26 April; And For Final Exam Final Exam Essays Due Midnight Wednesday 4 May

Quiz 4 Opens Saturday 16 April Closes Tuesday 19 April

Exam Two Multiple Choice Opens Saturday 23 April Closes Tuesday 26 April

Last Day of Classes for University Tuesday 26 April

Comprehensive Final Exam All Parts Due Midnight Wednesday 4 May

**F. Comments on Course Quizzes, Exams, and Essays**

No make ups for quizzes, since one quiz will be deleted (I will take the top 3 of 4). Make ups for Exam One or Exam Two will be arranged individually as needed. Standard documentation may be requested.

For each quiz, review sheets will be posted online in a folder in the Pages area with that quiz’s name.

The 2-3 page essays are to be submitted to Turnitin.com at course ID of 11431486 with password of Rose9.

1. **Course Reading Pages**

Reading pages for each unit will be posted online in the Pages area in a folder entitled “Course Readings”.

1. **Course Calendar**

To be posted by Monday 18 January

**I. Online Requirements**

The course requires repeated access to the course website to retrieve readings, to participate in discussions, to view power point slides, to view videos, and for a variety of other activities, including online presentations for those who choose to do them.

If you do not see the course on your Webcourses list, or have other difficulties, please email me at donjones@ucf.edu.

Posting comments in the Discussion area is not required at any time in the course, nor is attending optional chat rooms (there are no required chat rooms). Nevertheless, considerable credit can be earned toward essays for posting in online discussions of the material of the course. I have posted below a list of how points can be earned. I will endeavor to update one’s postings points totals once a week, in the best of weeks twice, so you can determine where you stand. My main way to apply postings points is toward essays for the upcoming exam. Please see the handout on postings points for more information.

I will check Discussion postings through Turnitin.com Please make sure you follow the same documentation guidelines for Discussion postings as for Exam essays. You are welcome to use sources, but you must use quotations marks, page numbers in sources, and other parts of standard documentation.

**J. How We Proceed**

We will start with contemporary discussions and use those to branch back into representative philosophers. For each topic we will try to combine both contemporary and historic examples.

I tend to put a lot of material into the Discussion area of the course. My normal week is to post some guidelines in an area for the material of that week, note some key points that might need expansion, hope that you read the material, and invite questions or discussion of the material. I also tend to put quite a few topics up for discussion just because they seem interesting to me or because I think some of you might be interested. You never need to participate in these discussions, though you are invited to do so. And, as far as testing goes, what you are to know for exam questions will be listed and duly noted in the posted Guidelines for Exams, so you won’t have to wonder.

Lists of Readings, Guidelines for Exams, Postings Points Guidelines, Weekly Notes, and Suggested Independent Tracks will normally occur in an area of the course website.

Practice exams and exam multiple choice questions will occur in the Quizzes area.

**K. Turnitin.com**

Take-home essays are to be submitted to Turnitin.com. Please use course ID of 11431486 with password of Rose9

I will check Discussion postings through Turnitin.com Please make sure you follow the same guidelines for Discussion postings as for normal essays. You are welcome to use sources, but you must use quotations marks, page numbers in sources, and other parts of standard documentation.

**L. POSTINGS CREDIT**

1. Postings Not Required

First, let me remind you that postings on the course website are not required. The only required activities in this course are the Exams. So, if you like, you can just ignore the stuff below. Of course, you can post comments on the website without regard to whether you get credit for doing so. Regardless, you might want to know that you can get credit for having done so.

One can build up course credit from postings. One essay of 2-3 pages is worth 25 points. The points you accumulate on Discussion postings can count toward that essay.

1. Postings Can Count in Place of Exam Essays

Postings on the course website (or combinations of postings) can count in place of upcoming exam essays, but never in place of the multiple choice. So, if you got 25 points in the postings area, you can assume full credit on your essay for the next upcoming exam.

1. Postings Points Posted

We will have a column for postings points. I will try to update that biweekly (usually on Sunday), if not more frequently, so that you can know how you stand with respect to the points earned to be used in place of essays for the next upcoming exam.

1. Grading Guidelines for Optional Postings Points

I will endeavor to use the following guidelines for assigning points for postings. I will keep a written record of these assignments of points so that at any given moment you can know why you got the points you got (or failed to get):

1. General Guideline:

The paradigm example of a full credit (25 points) posting (or sequence of postings), corresponding to a full credit essay on an upcoming exam, would be a posting (or sequence of postings) with a clear thesis that was well supported with good reasons, was as close to valid as natural language arguments can be, showed an awareness of at least one objection either to the supporting reasoning or to the validity of the argument, responded to that objection, and showed overall logical coherence.

1. Specific Guidelines (with rough range of possible points in parenthesis):

* 1. Distinction that clarifies a line of reasoning or application (4-8 points)
  2. Analogy that clarifies or extends a line of thought (4-12 points)
  3. Reconceptualization of some problem that opens up a new way of understanding it (4-16 points)
  4. Neat little example that shows something relevant to some point (4-8 points)
  5. Counter example to some thesis, argument, or supporting reason (4-8 points)
  6. Application of some material that we are studying that shows understanding and relevance of the material (1-16 points, depending upon its development and importance)
  7. Visual, auditory, or other multimedia illustration of some point in the course (6-25 points)
  8. And lots of other neat stuff that you can do (1-25 points)