

## **PHL 200: Ethics**

Kishwaukee College  
PHL 200 - Ethics  
(3 credit hours)  
PHL 200 – 3003

Wednesdays 6:00pm – 8:40pm  
Room U302  
8/28/2012 – 12/21/2012  
Instructor: Michael Sturm  
Office: U216  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 5pm-6pm & by appointment  
Phone: (815) 408-0035  
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### **Course Description**

A study of the principal ethical theories and concepts of human conduct and character, as well as a critical evaluation of these theories and concepts as they apply to particular moral problems and issues. Three hours lecture/discussion a week. **IAI: H4 904**

### **Course Objectives:**

- To introduce you to the main issues, theories, and problems of ethics.
- To encourage reflection upon moral problems that affect you and/or society at large.
- To foster a critical mind through the analysis of texts and difficult cases involving moral issues.
- To enable you to participate in ongoing and new debates about contemporary moral issues.

### **Texts**

**(EMP)** Rachels, James. (2010). *The Elements of Moral Philosophy (6th ed.)*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

**(RTD)** Rachels, James. (2010). *The Right Thing to Do (5th ed.)*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

*Additional readings* - to be posted on Blackboard during the semester

### **Required Student Materials**

Students are expected to have their textbooks (both of them) with them during every class period, unless otherwise instructed. Additional materials needed for taking notes (notebook, paper, laptop, etc.) are also encouraged.

### **Breakdown of Course Requirements**

- Participation.....50pts
- Quizzes(10).....200pts.
- Assignments .....50pts
- Midterm Exam.....100pts.
- Term Paper.....100pts.
- Total Possible.....500pts.**

### **Final Grade Determination**

- 450 – 500 = A
- 400 – 449 = B
- 350 – 399 = C
- 300 – 349 = D
- 0 – 299 = F

### ***Other Course Requirements***

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#### **Participation**

A portion of your grade will be based on participation, meaning your active contribution to the class discussion. It should go without saying that if you are absent from class regularly, you cannot have contributed all that much, and your grade will reflect that. You can contribute in two ways: ask a question of me or one of your classmates, or contribute a comment. The class will be run as a hybrid lecture/discussion, so there should be plenty of opportunity to ask questions and give your opinion. The nature of Philosophy, especially Ethics includes debating various theories. Do not be afraid to jump into the debate, you will undoubtedly get something as a result each time you do.

#### **Distractions**

Cell phones and portable computers are allowed in class, but must be silent. You have the freedom to distract yourself with them, but you don't have the freedom to distract others. So please be sure to silence all electronic devices before class begins.

## **Names**

In an effort to foster an environment of mutual respect and equality, I ask that we all refer to one another as either Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ or Ms. \_\_\_\_\_. This will ensure that we are all equally respectful of one another, and nurture a healthy discourse. I will provide name placards during the beginning weeks of the class to aid in getting us familiar with each others' names.

## **Make-Up Policy**

Quizzes will be random and used as an indicator of class attendance. In only the rare instances of unforeseen absences will make up quizzes be offered. However, the lowest two (2) quiz grades will be dropped for each student. Therefore, one could theoretically miss 2 quizzes without any impact on one's grade.

Test dates are included in the syllabus; changes to those dates will be announced ahead of time and posted on the course website. If a student will not be able to make it to class on one of those days, he or she must meet with me in advance to set up an alternative date to take the exam. Make-up tests for *unexpected* absences will only be given in the event of an emergency, proof of which must be provided by the student.

## ***School Policies and Resources***

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### **Learning Skills Center (A-330)**

Tutoring and testing is available to all Kishwaukee students free of charge. Students must present their Kishwaukee College student ID when using any Learning Skills Center services. No appointment is necessary for assistance in English. For more information on the Learning Skills Center go to [www.kishwaukeecollege.edu/learning\\_skills\\_center](http://www.kishwaukeecollege.edu/learning_skills_center).

The Writing Center (A-306) answers your writing-related questions regardless of the class or assignment. No appointment is necessary, and students can get help individually or in small groups. Also available are workshop opportunities for any size group.

### **Withdrawal Policy**

A "W" will not be given as a final grade. The student is responsible for officially withdrawing from the class according to procedures described in the college catalog. Any student that does not officially withdraw from the class will receive a letter grade. The last date for withdrawal for this course can be found at "MY CLASS SCHEDULE" on KishSOS.

## **Class Cancellations**

Class Cancellations due to inclement weather will be announced on local radio stations and/or posted on the College website: [www.kishwaukeecollege.edu](http://www.kishwaukeecollege.edu), students may also call the College at (815) 825-2086. Class cancellations due to instructor absence will be posted on the classroom door and posted at [www.kishwaukeecollege.edu/class\\_cancellations](http://www.kishwaukeecollege.edu/class_cancellations). Room changes will be announced in advance whenever possible and posted on the classroom door.

## **Emergency Procedures/Safety**

Yellow and red *Emergency Information Flip Charts* are located in each classroom. These are quick references sheets with telephone numbers to reach emergency assistance and a brief description of the correct actions to take in the event of a tornado, fire, or other emergency on campus.

## **Graduation Requirements for Transfer Degree Students**

As part of the assessment program, students intending to graduate with an A.A., A.E.S., A.F.A., or A.S. are required to submit a Degree Portfolio. Information on the degree portfolio can be found at [www.kishwaukeecollege.edu/portfolio](http://www.kishwaukeecollege.edu/portfolio).

## **Academic Honesty**

Academic honesty is essential in a college community. In order to evaluate student work, faculty must be able to trust that the work is the original work of a student and not the work of someone else. Plagiarism, cheating, or other dishonest actions will not be tolerated, and the penalties for such actions are at the discretion of the instructor. A complete explanation of the policy and procedures surrounding academic honesty are outlined in the Kishwaukee College Catalog.

## **Copyright**

As a Kishwaukee College Student, you may have software made available to you by the college for course use. Please understand that copyright law may prohibit copying these materials. Violation of copyright laws can lead to prosecution for a criminal offense.

## **Assistive Resources Center/Disability Services**

Any student having a documented disability or special learning need and wanting to request accommodations should contact the Coordinator in A 317 or at (815) 825-2086 Ext 396 (v), (815) 825-9106 (TTY), or send an e-mail to [awilson@kishwaukeecollege.edu](mailto:awilson@kishwaukeecollege.edu). The student's disability must impact their ability to participate in the educational environment and be documented by an appropriate professional prior to accommodations being approved.

## **Student E-mail**

Your Kishwaukee College e-mail account will be the only way to receive official notices from the college. If you choose to forward your e-mail to another account, please be advised that all communication from and within the college will use your Kishwaukee student e-mail. When communicating with instructors or employees of the college, you are required to use your Kishwaukee e-mail address.

## **BlackBoard Course Website**

We will be using BlackBoard online software for this course. All course announcements and changes will be available there, as well as documents, notes, media, and other goodies. If you are enrolled in the course, you can log on to BlackBoard. The website is:

<https://online.kishwaukeecollege.edu/>

You will need your KishID and password to log in. If you do not know these, contact the IT Helpdesk:

[helpdesk@kishwaukeecollege.edu](mailto:helpdesk@kishwaukeecollege.edu)

or

(815) 825-2086, extension 4357

## ***Tentative Course Outline*** *(subject to change)*

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Note: Readings listed under each date are required to be done prior to, and in preparation for that class session.

### **8/28**

Introduction. Distribute syllabus. The subject matter of Ethics, and making ethical arguments.

No reading.(Lecture/discussion derived from *EMP* Ch.2)

### **9/4**

What is morality? Basic questions and (answers?) of Ethics and Moral Philosophy.

*EMP* ch. 1; *RTD* Ch. 1; Selection from Shafer-Landau's *The Fundamentals of Ethics* (available on Blackboard)

Moral Skepticism: Cultural Relativism

*EMP* ch. 2;

**9/11**

Moral Skepticism: Subjectivism and Emotivism

*EMP* ch. 3; *RTD* Ch. 6;

**9/18**

Religion and Morality - Divine Command Theory and Natural Law Theory

*EMP* ch. 4 ; Reading from St. Thomas Aquinas' *Summa Theologica* (posted on Blackboard)

**9/25**

Psychological Egoism and Ethical Egoism

*EMP* ch. 5; Selection from Feinberg: "Psychological Egoism" (available on Blackboard)

**10/2**

Contractualism

*EMP* ch. 6; Reading from David Gauthier (available on Blackboard)

**10/9**

Consequentialist Ethics

Reading from Shafer-Landau's *The Fundamentals of Ethics* (available on Blackboard)

Utilitarianism: Explanation and Arguments For

*RTD* ch. 3; *EMP* ch. 7;

**10/16 Mid-Term Exam**

**10/23** Utilitarianism: Objections and Problems

*EMP* ch. 8; *RTD* ch. 5

**10/30**

Deontology: Kantian Ethics.

*EMP* ch. 9 - 10

**11/6**

Alternatives; Feminist Critiques of Ethics and Virtue Ethics.

*EMP* ch. 11-12; *RTD* ch. 8 & 10

**11/13 Paper Topics Distributed**

Race and Racism.

*RTD* 31-33; Selection from Appiah's "Racisms"(available on Blackboard)

**11/20**

Animals and Ethics

*RTD* 14-16;

**11/27**

Just War Theory and Terrorism

*RTD* ch. 19, 21, 22

**12/4**

Euthanasia and Death

*RTD* ch.34-35

**12/11 Term Paper Due**

Going Forward: A Brief Introduction to Political Philosophy  
reading material TBD and will be posted on Blackboard

**12/18**

Final class assessment.