PHIL 200: Ethics
Section 3002
Tue 6:00pm – 8:40pm, U302
8/25/2010 – 12/15/2010

Instructor: Michael Sturm
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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.

## Text

**(EM)**  Rachels, Jarmes. (2010). *The Elements of Moral Philosophy (6th ed.)*. New Yok: McGraw-HIll.

**(RTD)**  Rachels, Jarmes. (2010). *The Right Thing to Do (5th ed.)*. New Yok:   McGraw-HIll.

## 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 (5)……………50pts.
Midterm Exam………..100pts.

Final Exam……………100pts.
Paper1…………………75pts.
Paper2…………………75pts.
**Total Possible…………450pts.**

**Final Grade Determination**

405 – 450 = A
360 – 404 = B
315 – 359 = C
270 – 314 = D
  0 – 269 = F


**Other Course Requirements**

In a substantial majority of cases, the more that you participate actively in a debate, the more you learn about the topic of said debate.  Philosophy, if nothing else, is all about debates.  There are at least two conflicting answers to each question that philosophers have asked and do ask, and there is very little consensus as to which answers are correct.  Furthermore, Philosophy takes reality itself as its subject matter.  Thus, if you have opinions about reality, then you have Philosophical stances.
That being said, a small portion of your grade will be based on participation.  This requirement is not just so that I have more ways to grade you, but it will also help your classmates.  The more you participate, the larger the debate grows, and the larger the debate, the more things you and your classmates have to talk about.  In other words, get involved, it helps all of us (even me)!
Therefore, you will be expected to attend each class, unless there are extenuating circumstances.  If you do not, your participation grade will suffer accordingly.


**Make-Up Policy**

There will be no make-up quizzes, as quizzes will be random and used as an indicator of class attendance.  Test dates are included in the syllabus; 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.

**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](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, 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.  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.

**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 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 Kishwuakee 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.

## Tentative Course Outline

**8/24/2010**

Introduction. Distribute syllabus. Outline derived from *Elements* Ch.2

**8/31/2010**

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

*EMP* ch. 1; *RTD* Ch. 1

**9/7/2010**

Relativism and its impact on Ethics.

*EMP* ch. 2; *RTD* Ch.

**9/14/2010**

Subjectivism and Emotivist theories in Ethics.

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

**9/21/2010**

Two extremes; Religious Morality and Egoism

*EMP* ch. 4 – 5

**9/28/2010**

Contractualism and it's development. Also; a brief foray into Political Philosophy.

*EMP* ch. 6; supplimentary Scanlon & Rawls

**10/5/2010**
Utilitarianism: For

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


**10/12/2010**

Utilitarianism: Against*EMP* ch. 8; *RTD* ch. 4-5


**10/19/2010**

Deontology and Kantian Ethics.

*EMP* ch. 9 - 10


**10/26/2010    Mid-Term Exam**


**11/2/2010**

Alternatives; Feminism, Virtue Ethics, and the Ethics of Care

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


**11/9/2010**

Prospects for a Workable Moral Theory *and* The Realm of Political Philosophy

*EMP* ch. 13;  Additional Readings TBA


**11/16/2010**

Race and Racism.

*RTD* 31-33;


**11/23/2010**

Animals and Ethics

*RTD*14-16;


**11/30/2010**

Terrorism and Power of Rhetoric

 *RTD* ch. 19, 21, 22

**12/7/2010**
TBD - possible final exam review


**12/14/2010    Final Exam, no lesson**