**PHIL 1020 – Ethics**

**Fall 2018**

**Friday 9:25-12:05**

Instructor: Jennifer Jensen, PhD

Cell Phone: 574-234-1975

Email: jjensen2@uccs.edu

Office: Columbine 4054

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 9:30-10:30am or By Appointment

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to ethics. The first half of the course will focus on two main issues in ethical theory: (1) Are there any moral truths at all? (2) What is it to be moral? We will explore and evaluate how both classical and contemporary philosophers have sought to answer these questions. The second half of the course will focus on topics in applied ethics.

**Course Objectives**

1. To become familiar with traditional ethical theories of Western philosophy.
2. To use basic philosophical methodology to analyze ethical issues.
3. To clearly and precisely articulate your philosophical position on ethical issues.
4. To profitably and charitably discuss controversial issues with those with whom you disagree.

**Text**

* *Doing Ethics*, 4th Edition. Lewis Vaughn. ISBN: 978-0-393-91928-8
* Other readings will be made available on Canvas.

**Course Requirements**

**Basis for Grading**

#### Study Questions = 20 points

Position Paper 1 = 20 points

Position Paper 2 = 20 points

Midterm Exam = 20 points

Final Exam = 20 points

* + - *Study Questions (20 points)*: You will have a reading assignment for each week of approximately 20 pages. In my experience, it takes novice and expert philosophers alike 1-1 ½ hours to carefully read 10 pages of high quality philosophical writing. After you have carefully read the assignment, you will answer a few study questions. I will post the study questions on Canvas. You will turn in your work on Canvas by the beginning of class. Your responses should reveal that you have made a significant attempt to understand the reading. **All full credit study question responses will include citations from your assigned readings.** I will grade your answers on the following scale:

0 = You did not complete the assignment.

1 = You completed the assignment but gave very little evidence of having carefully done the readings.

2 = You completed the assignment and gave good evidence of having carefully done the readings including citations from your assigned readings.

Over the course of the semester, there will be 13 sets of study questions. Each will be worth 2 points. I will drop your lowest three study questions grades. Thus, if you miss one or two or three weeks, your study questions grade will not suffer.

* *Position Papers (20 points each):* You will write two position papers over the course of the semester: one before the midterm and one after the midterm. You will write your position papers on specific questions that I give you using your readings as resources. Each paper will be 2-3 pages in length. On the weeks that your papers are due, you will present your ideas to the class once as a Reader and once as a member of the Response Team. Here is a description of each role:
  + *The Readers*: For each topic, there will be 2-5 readers. On the day that you are a reader, you will bring 15 copies of your paper to distribute among the class. You will read your paper to the class. Then you will field questions from the response team.
  + *The Response Team*: The response team will consist of 2-5 students. Each member of the response team will write a position paper on the topic (though they will not read or distribute their papers). Following the presentation of the papers, there will be a 5 minute recess during which the response team will briefly discuss how to proceed. The response team will be responsible for asking questions of each of the readers. Each student will be a member of the response team one time during the semester.

Your position paper grade will be based on your written paper (15 points) and your role in the presentation (5 points). If you cannot attend class for any reason on the days that you are scheduled to be involved in the presentation, you will need to see me about changing topics or you will lose your 5 presentation points. On the second week of class, you will sign up for your two topics. Take a look at the position paper questions to see what topics most interest you.

* + - *Midterm and Final Exams (20 points each):* The midterm exam will include questions from the first half of the course drawn from our class sessions and the assigned readings. The final exam will cover the second half of the course. Prior to the exams, I will discuss the nature of the exams more specifically and hand out a review sheet.
    - *Attendance:* You are expected to attend every class session and be prepared to engage in the classroom discussion. I realize that you may sometimes miss class for reasons beyond your control. Therefore, there will be no penalty for the first two missed classes. Every absence beyond two will result in a 3 point reduction in your final grade. If you miss more than 5 classes, you will automatically receive an F in the course.

**Class Policy**

*Late Policy:* The study questions must be submitted to me on Canvas by the beginning of class. Position papers must be turned in on the scheduled due dates. Exams must be taken on the scheduled dates.

*Technology in the Classroom*: The bulk of our class time will be spent in large group discussion. This will require your active participation. To facilitate this, laptop computers, I pads, etc. will not be permitted in the classroom. The only exception to this is if your textbook is on an e-reader. I also ask that you turn your phones off before entering the classroom and store them in a backpack or purse where they are out of sight.

*Academic Honesty:* All written assignments are to be completed individually; students are in no way to work in a collaborative manner on papers unless explicitly given permission to do so. Any ideas that appear in your work that were obtained from an outside source must acknowledge that source. Note that academic dishonesty is a serious offense; any student caught plagiarizing parts or all of a paper or purchasing a paper from another source will receive an F in the course.

*Classroom Conduct:* Classroom disruptions negatively affect the learning environment. “Disruption,” as applied to the academic setting, means verbal and other behavior in the classroom that a faculty member judges as interfering with normal academic functions. Disruptive behavior will be handled according to the university policy. For more information, go to the UCCS Dean of Students webpage under the tab *Student Conduct*.