Instructor: Dr. Andrew K. Whitehead
Email: awhiteh8@kennesaw.edu
Office: Social Sciences 4097
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 14:00 – 15:00

Catalogue Course Description:
The course is a study of the major approaches to ethical thought and the applicability of these approaches to selected issues in the humanities, sciences, and professional areas including business, medicine and law.

Instructor's Course Description:
This course introduces students to several major schools of thought in the history ethical theory. Amongst the questions we may raise will be: What is meant by a good life? What makes an action subject to a particular moral valuation? What are the different ethical modes of engaging with events? How does one event lend itself to contradictory moral evaluations? What role do emotions and desires play in value judgments? The approach we will take is historical with respect to primary texts, but contemporary with respect to the issues and questions discussed. We will also take a comparative approach insofar as students will be encouraged to identify and explore parallels between different positions and practices (East and West) within a broadly speaking ethical framework.

Course Objectives:
1. Develop an understanding of ethical questions, the foundations of ethical theory, and the impact of ethical pronouncements.
2. Question claims made by ethicists and learn to test them against available evidence with a view to advancing general and transferable critical skills.
3. Learn to appreciate the latent philosophy of ethical valuations.
4. Achieve competency in the technical terminology of ethics and moral theory.
5. Compare the tools and concerns of ethics with those of other philosophical and non-philosophical approaches and practices.
6. Reach advanced levels of comprehension, argumentation, presentation and writing skills.

Course Format:
Classroom sessions will combine formal lectures and informal discussions. Students are encouraged to participate actively in debate and to raise related issues relevant to their lives and experience. Students are expected to prepare all readings in advance of the sessions for which they are scheduled. Some of the assigned primary texts are difficult, but will be openly discussed in class and complemented with optional secondary readings.

Course Books (Required)
Nicomachean Ethics 2nd Edition
978-0872204645
Aristotle, Terence Irwin (trans.)
Hackett Publishing Co.

Confucian Role Ethics: A Vocabulary
978-0824835767
Roger T. Ames
University of Hawai‘i Press

The Moral Fool: A Case for Amorality
978-0231145091
Hans-Georg Moeller
Columbia University Press
Required Reading:
Primary readings will either be made available online as electronic documents or included in the required textbooks.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance is required. Students will not be able to succeed in this course without complete attendance. Responsibility for material covered while absent belongs solely with the student.

Electronic Devices Policy:
The volume on all electronic devices should be turned off in class. The use of cell phones is strictly prohibited in class. Students are welcome to use laptops for note-taking purposes only (no web based activity) if necessary. Any violation of this policy will negatively affect students’ participation grades.

Course Assessment:
- Pop Quizzes (4) 20%
- Reflective Essay 15%
- Presentation 15%
- Mid-Term Exam 25%
- Major Term-Paper 25%

Description of Assignments:
**Pop Quiz:** 4 quizzes will be given without notice during the term. The quizzes will aim to determine that students have done the reading, and will therefore consist of simple questions based on the text.

**Reflective Essay:** Your reflective essay should be formatted with double-spacing, 12 point Times New Roman font, and 1” margins, and follow Turabian (Chicago) citation guidelines (see https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01/). You are required to write 600 words on your understanding of what is meant by ethics. Specifically, you should reflect on and answer three questions: 1) What makes an action right or wrong? 2) Can one and the same action be both right and wrong? 3) On what grounds can one assert a particular moral valuation of an action? The reflective essay is graded on a pass/fail basis.

**Presentation:** All students are required to deliver a presentation on one of the readings from class. Your presentation should provide a clear and concise articulation of and engagement with one the relevant texts using a contemporary case study. You are expected to provide handouts for the entire class (including two copies of the handout for the instructor), outlining the major points of your presentation and how it serves to clarify the reading. Your presentation should last approximately 10 minutes. The presentation is graded as excellent (15/15), satisfactory (10/15), delivered (5/15), or fail (0/15).

**Major Term-Paper:** Your major term-paper should be formatted with double-spacing, 12 point Times New Roman font, and 1” margins, and follow Turabian (Chicago) citation guidelines (see https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01/). You are required to write 2500 words on a topic of your choosing, which must be approved by the instructor no later than March 26, 2014. In order to receive approval, you must submit the following: a title and thesis statement, along with a provisional bibliography that includes at least three legitimate secondary sources in addition to at least one of the primary readings from class.

**Grading Scale:**
Students are evaluated on the following scale:

- A — 100 – 90
- B — 89 – 80
- C — 79 – 70
- D — 69 – 60
- F — <60
Academic Integrity:
No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior that a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they must be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project they must be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current instructor(s).

To avoid plagiarizing, including unintentionally plagiarizing, please visit:
http://plagiarism.org/
http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.html
http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html

Philosophy Resources:
Resources for writing a philosophy paper:
KSU Philosophy Research Guide
http://libguides.kennesaw.edu/content.php?pid=531460&sid=4372684

How to Write a Philosophy Paper

KSU Philosophy Writing Workshop
Tuesday, February 18 12:30 – 14:30 SO 5074

The KSU Writing Center
A free service offered to all KSU students. Experienced writing assistants work with you throughout the writing process (on concerns such as topic development, revision, research, documentation, grammar, and mechanics) although assistants cannot edit or proofread your paper for you. For more information or to make an appointment, visit http://www.kennesaw.edu/english/WritingCenter, or stop by Room 242 in the English Building.

Your Professors and Instructors

Philosophy Student Association:
http://www.philosophystudentassociation.com

Topics and Readings (subject to change at the discretion of instructor):

Week 1—Jan. 8
Introduction: Ethos (ἦθος) and Μορὲς: The Good Life

Week 2—Jan. 13 and 15
Normativism: Establishing Codes
Reading(s): The Instruction of Shuruppak (D2L, online)

ARISTOTLE’S NICOMACHEAN ETHICS (2 Weeks)
Week 3—Jan. 22
***Reflective Essay Due***
Books I, II, III
Reading(s): Nicomachean Ethics (NE), pp.1 – 48

Week 4—Jan. 27 and 29
Books VIII and IX
Reading(s): NE, pp.119 – 152

1 No class on January 6, 2014
2 No class on January 20, 2014
HUME, KANT, MILL, AND RAWLS (4 Weeks)
Week 5—Feb. 3 and 5
Hume
Reading(s): *Ethics: The Essential Writings (Ethics)*, pp.149 – 187

Week 6—Feb. 10 and 12
Kant
Reading(s): *Ethics*, pp.188 – 224

Week 7—Feb. 17 and 19
Mill
Reading(s): *Ethics*, pp.225 – 255

Week 8—Feb. 24 and 26
Rawls
Reading(s): *Ethics*, pp.378 – 395

Week 9—Mar. 3 and 5
***Review and Mid-Term Exam***

CONFUCIAN ROLE ETHICS (2 Weeks)
Week 10—Mar. 10 and 12
Reading(s): *Confucian Role Ethics (CRE)*, pp.87 – 125; pp.159-210

Week 11—Mar. 17
Reading(s): CRE, pp.159 – 210 (cont’d)

AMORALISM (3 Weeks)
Week 12—Mar. 24 and 26
***Deadline for Major Term Paper Topic Approval March 26***
Reading(s): *The Moral Fool: A Case for Amorality (Fool)*, pp.16 – 39

Week 13—Apr. 7 and 9
Reading(s): Fool, pp.40 – 75

Week 14—Apr. 14 and 16
***Major Term Paper Due April 14***
Reading(s): Fool, pp.76 – 103

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS (2 Weeks)
Week 15—Apr. 21 and 23

Week 16—Apr. 28 and 30

IMPORTANT DATES:
- **First Day of Class:** Jan. 8
- **Holiday (Martin Luther King Day; No Class):** Jan. 20
- **Reflective Essay Due Date:** Jan. 22
- **Philosophy Writing Workshop:** Feb. 18, 12:30 – 14:30 SO 5074
- **Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty:** Mar. 3
- **Mid-Term Exam:** Mar. 5
- **Reading Day (No Class):** Mar. 19
- **Deadline for Major Term Paper Topic Approval:** Mar. 26
- **Spring Break:** Mar. 29 – Apr. 4
- **Major Term Paper Due Date:** Apr. 14

3 No class on March 19, 2014