World Ethics: Culture, Context, and Challenges
Summer 2014
May 28 - June 28

Professor: Dr. David Jones
Office: 4082 Social Science Building
Consultation Times: MTW 10:30-11:00 and 4:45-5:15 or by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
This upper division class explores some major elements in moral philosophy world-wide, with a focus upon moral and cultural diversity. The class will consider and evaluate the relativist and subjectivist conclusions often drawn from the facts of moral diversity, and explores different philosophical orientations of religious systems of morality (Christianity, Islam, Confucianism, and Buddhism) as well as the differences between religious and secular approaches to ethics. Although not a course in practical or normative ethics, these concerns will be embedded in our discussions. Such issues may include perennial matters of life and death (abortion, euthanasia, the killing of animals) and global issues arising from our increasingly interconnected global situation (world poverty, environmental ethics, war, torture and terrorism).

COURSE OBJECTIVES
By the end of the course students should be able:

- To describe the main tenets of the major ethical theories (e.g. Utilitarianism, Deontology, Virtue Ethics, Confucian Role Ethics, immorality challenges, etc.) in essay form.
- To identify specific moral problems and apply ethical theories to them.
- To appreciate the diversity of moral perspectives and explain how each perspective creates a contextual reference for judgments about specific moral problems.
- To understand the specific range of global moral problems arising from an increasingly inter-related and inter-connected world.

Course Format: Classroom sessions will be both lecture and discussion with the emphasis placed on informal, that is, interactive lecture. Students are encouraged and expected to ask questions and must be prepared each class to discuss the problems and issues of the class. This class will not have power point presentations or study guides. If you are reliant on these types of learning crutches, you should enroll in a different class. In addition to class periods, students are expected to attend small discussion group meetings led by the teaching assistant on different days of scheduled classes and at different times.

Course and Classroom Policies: All work completed outside of class must be word-processed. There are no provisions for extra-credit in “World Ethics: Culture, Context, and Challenges” and no makeup examinations. Participation and attendance are mandatory and are essential for a good grade in this course. Consider the statement on academic honesty in the Kennesaw State University Undergraduate Catalogue to be a part of this Course Description and Syllabus.
Students plagiarizing will automatically fail the course. Active cellular telephones or paging devices are not permitted in class. Also, in order to enhance critical listening skills, no audio or visual taping of lectures is permitted without the instructor’s approval. If students are using laptops for note taking, they are not allowed to be on-line or engaged in instant messaging. Final Grades will not be transmitted electronically. Arrive to class on time. All contents of lectures, including written materials distributed to the class, are under copyright protection.

Class Notes Policy: Notes or recordings made by students in this class based on my lectures, discussion groups or class discussions may only be made for the purposes of individual or group study, or for other non-commercial purposes that reasonably arise from your membership in this class. Permission to make notes or recordings falls within my discretion as the instructor and as informed by instructional purposes, classroom order, property interests and other reasonable considerations arising in the academic context. Notes and recordings of this class may not be exchanged or distributed for any commercial purpose, for compensation, or for any purpose other than your personal study. Unless authorized by the University in advance and explicitly and in writing permitted by me, commercial or any non-personal use of class notes or recordings constitutes an unauthorized commercial activity in violation of the Student Conduct Code, and students who violate this policy are subject to University discipline. As the instructor in this course, I retain intellectual property rights in the lecture material pursuant to U.S. copyright law and Georgia Civil Code. Misuse of course notes or recordings derived from lecture material may also subject you to legal proceedings.

Electronic Devices Policy: No electronic devices including laptops and cell phones are permitted unless students qualify for the Americans with Disabilities Act. Learning to listen without distraction is essential for philosophical thinking. All cell phones must be disabled during class time.

Books:
The Moral Fool: A Case for Amorality  
Hans-Georg Moeller  
Publisher: Columbia University Press; 2nd Revised edition (July 15, 2009)  
ISBN-10: 0231145098

Confucian Role Ethics: A Vocabulary (Chi’en Mu Lectures)  
Roger T. Ames  
Publisher: University of Hawaii Press (April 30, 2011)  
ISBN-10: 082483576X  

Grading:  
Exam 1 (30 points)  
Exam 2 (30 points)  
Exam 3 (30 points)  
Attendance and Participation (10 points)
World Ethics: Culture, Context, and Challenges
Syllabus – Summer 2014
May 28 – June 24

Professor: Dr. David Jones
E-Mail: djones@kennesaw.edu

Topics Discussed in Order - Dates may be adjusted a bit

May 28 – June 11
Introduction to course; Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Ethical Theories in the West: Virtue Ethics, Deontology, and Utilitarianism.

READ:  
Nicomachean Ethics by Aristotle (350 BCE)  
Books 1-3  
http://www.constitution.org/ari/ethic_00.htm

General Introduction to the Metaphysic of Morals  
Immanuel Kant (1785)  
http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/ethics/kant/morals/ch03.htm

“On Liberty” by John Stuart Mill  
http://www.bartleby.com/130/

June 12
EXAM 1
All exams are cumulative.

June 16 – 17
Confucian Role Ethics

READ:  Confucian Role Ethics: A Vocabulary  
Roger T. Ames

June 18
EXAM 2
All exams are cumulative.

June 19 – 20
Challenge of Amorality and Immorality

READ:  The Moral Fool: A Case for Amorality  
Hans-Georg Moeller

June 23
Buddhist Ethics

READ:  The Buddha’s “The First Sermon and the Synopsis of Truth”  
http://san.beck.org/Buddha.html

June 24
FINAL EXAM (Cumulative)