

**Ethics: Culture, Context, and Challenges**  
**Summer 2016**  
**May 30 - July 20**  
**2:00-4:45**  
**Social Science Building 3023**

**Professor:** Dr. David Jones

**Office:** 4082 Social Science Building

**Consultation Times:** TTH 1:00-3:00 or by appointment

**Phone:** 470.578.6596 (office) and 470.578.6294 (department)

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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.

**Course and Classroom Policies:** All work completed outside of class must be word-processed. There are no provisions for extra-credit in “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. 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 Ethics of Identity*

Kwame Anthony Appiah

Publisher: Princeton University Press

ISBN: 9780691130286

*Confucian Role Ethics: A Moral Vision for the 21st Century?*

Henry Rosemont Jr and Roger T. Ames

Publisher: V&R Academic (July 11, 2016)

ISBN-10: 3847106058

ISBN-13: 978-3847106050

**Grading:**

Exam 1 (25 points)

Exam 2 (25 points)

Exam 3 (20 points)

Presentations (20)

Attendance and Participation (10 points)

***Ethics: Culture, Context, and Challenges***

**Syllabus**

**Summer 2017**

**May 30 - July 20**

**2:00-4:45**

**Professor:** Dr. David Jones

**E-Mail:** djones@kennesaw.edu

**Topics Discussed in Order - Dates may be adjusted a bit**

**May 30 – June 22** 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](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 15** **Group Alpha Presentation on Chapter 1 of *Ethics of Identity***

**June 22** **Group Beta Presentation on Chapter 2 of *Ethics of Identity***

**June 27** **EXAM 1**

**All exams are cumulative.**

**June 29** **Group Gamma Presentation on Chapter 3 of *Ethics of Identity***

**June 29 – July 11** Confucian Role Ethics

**READ:** *Confucian Role Ethics: A Moral Vision for the 21st Century?*

Henry Rosemont Jr and Roger T. Ames

**July 6** **Group Alpha Presentation on Chapter 4 of *Ethics of Identity***

- July 13**                    **EXAM 2**  
**All exams are cumulative.**
- July 13 – 18**            Challenge of Amorality and Immorality  
**READ: Selections from Nietzsche**
- July 18**                    **Group Beta Presentation on Chapter 5 of *Ethics of Identity***
- July 20**                    Buddhist Ethics  
**READ: The Buddha's "The First Sermon and the Synopsis of Truth"**  
<http://san.beck.org/Buddha.html>
- July 20**                    **Group Gamma Presentation on Chapter 6 of *Ethics of Identity***
- July 24**                    **FINAL EXAM (Cumulative) 2:00**

## **Group Assignments for Presentations on *Ethics of Identity***

### **Group Alpha**

Phillip Blackwell  
Dennis Chapman  
Annie Disselkoen  
Dustin Moore

### **Group Beta**

Hamby, Brianna Elizabeth  
Hasan, Ayman  
Hixon, Cody Jacob

### **Group Gamma**

Noemi Nath  
Austin Walters  
Matthew Wang  
Knox Watson

### **Chapter 1 on June 15 (Group Alpha Presentation)**

Phillip Blackwell  
Dennis Chapman  
Annie Disselkoen  
Dustin Moore

### **Chapter 2 on June 22 (Group Beta Presentation)**

Hamby, Brianna Elizabeth  
Hasan, Ayman  
Hixon, Cody Jacob

### **Chapter 3 on June 29 (Group Gamma Presentation)**

Noemi Nath  
Austin Walters  
Matthew Wang  
Knox Watson

### **Chapter 4 on July 6 (Group Alpha Presentation)**

Phillip Blackwell  
Dennis Chapman  
Annie Disselkoen  
Dustin Moore

### **Chapter 5 on July 18 (Group Beta Presentation)**

Hamby, Brianna Elizabeth  
Hasan, Ayman  
Hixon, Cody Jacob

### **Chapter 6 on July 20 (Group Gamma Presentation)**

Noemi Nath  
Austin Walters  
Matthew Wang  
Knox Watson