INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS
PHILOSOPHY 10, Section: 79339, Location: Room 450
Spring 2013
W 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Professor Rebecca Smith
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Office Hours:
M: 2:00 – 2:30 pm
T: 2:00 – 2:30 pm
W: 2:00 – 2:30 pm; 4:00 – 6:00 pm
TH: 10:30 – 11:10 am
And by appt.

Core Competencies
This class focuses on all four of Cabrillo’s core competencies:
I. Communication
II. Critical Thinking & Information Competency
III. (Not Applicable)
IV. Personal Responsibility and Professional Development

Student Learning Outcomes
Evaluate key ethical concepts, issues and problems covered in this course.
Critically analyze the philosophical texts covered in this course, which consists of identifying the structure and strategy of the arguments as well as the motivations of the arguer.

Course Objectives
1. Identify and explicate the major problems and solutions to these problems presented by the philosophers covered in this course.
2. Identify and distinguish the major ethical categories for ethical judgment and justification, e.g. absolutism, objectivism, relativism, subjectivism, nihilism. This involves distinguishing the different standards used in developing different theories and discerning the difference not only in content but in concern, e.g. subjective vs. objective, action vs. character or virtue, emotion vs. reason, deontological vs. teleological and consequential theories.
3. Compare and contrast the major ethical categories and the theories presented by the philosophers covered.
4. Identify some of the basic assumptions and worldviews adopted by the philosophers covered. Enumerate and describe how these basic assumptions help make such philosophical theories possible.

Reading
Text: Sommers & Sommers, *Vice and Virtue in Everyday Life, 7th or 8th edition*

Here are some other options
Textbooks On Reserve
A copy of the textbook is on a 2-hour reserve in the library. If the book is checked out in the last 2 hours of the day, it can be used over night.

Textbook Exchange and Housing Board
You might find the book by going to the Cabrillo Textbook Exchange website at:
https://alacran.cabrillo.edu/classifieds/
Borrow a Book
Students may apply to borrow a book for the semester. If the textbook is not in the inventory of this program, the coordinator of the program might be able to order it. The book must be returned at the end of the semester in good condition for future use by others. For an application, see Melissa Brilino in the Transfer Center, Bldg. 100.

Responsibilities
DON'T EMAIL ME IF YOU MISS CLASS, READ THE FOLLOWING AS TO WHAT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IS AS A STUDENT IN THIS COURSE, IF YOU MISS CLASS. If you miss class it will be your responsibility to discuss with another student what it is we covered and ask that student for her or his lecture notes. Then if you have questions with regard to these notes, you should come to my office hours. The point of this discussion here is that if you miss class, it is your responsibility to do some work here. You should always read the material we will discuss that day before having come to class and be prepared to discuss it.

Class Requirements
Midterm: 200 points possible
Final: 200 points possible
4 Text/Reading Exams: 400 points possible
Journal/Writing Exercises: 200 points possible
Quizzes: 100 points possible
4 Film Exercises: 100 points possible

All work is required and missing any assignment is sufficient grounds for failing the course regardless of your final point total, this will be left up to the discretion of the professor.

Grading Scale
A: 1080 - 1200
B: 960 - 1079
C: 840 - 959
D: 720 - 839
F: below 720

Midterm
You can expect multiple-choice questions and possibly true/false or yes/no questions and possibly matching questions. You will need to bring an apersan (light blue scantron, you can get them at the bookstore) to class on the day we have the exam. NO NOTES, NO BOOK ALLOWED. MAKEUPS WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED IN EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES, AND I DO MEAN EXTRAORDINARY (THINK APOCALYPSE). DOCUMENTATION WILL BE REQUIRED. MOREOVER, YOU CAN EXPECT THE MAKEUP TO GIVE YOU A HEADACHE, YOU WILL HAVE TO TAKE IT IN MY SMALL OFFICE WITH ME BREATHING DOWN YOUR NECK, AND YOU CAN BET IT WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT THAN THE ORIGINAL MIDTERM. ANYONE MORE THAN 15 MINUTES LATE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE THE EXAM AND WILL RECEIVE AN F.
Final
You can expect multiple-choice questions and possibly true/false or yes/no questions and possibly matching questions. You will need to bring an aperson (light blue scantron, you can get them at the bookstore) to class on the day we have the exam.
NO MAKEUPS, NOT FOR ANY REASON. ANYONE MORE THAN 15 MINUTES LATE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE THE EXAM AND WILL RECEIVE AN F.

4 Text/Reading Exams
TAKEN ON A COMPUTER OUTSIDE OF CLASS. YOU WILL LOG ON TO BLACKBOARD (AT A COMPUTER OF YOUR CHOOSING) TO TAKE THE EXAMS. THESE EXAMS WILL BE UP OVER SPECIFIED WEEKENDS (FRI, SAT & SUN).
I will discuss how this will work in more detail in class.

These will consist of multiple-choice questions, which concern the readings. You will be given a selection of study questions before the exam on Blackboard, with page numbers from the text to guide you to the answers. I will select the multiple-choice questions for the exam from this list of questions.

Journal/Writing Exercises
These will be posted up on blackboard. You will have a period of two weeks in which to submit your answer. These will be short writing assignments, minimum of 250 words, maximum of 350 words. If you want me to look at a rough draft of your work, you must bring in a hard copy to my office and we will go through it during office hours.

Failure to submit your answer in the allotted time will constitute failure to complete the exercise. (That includes if Blackboard is down. You have three weeks in which to submit these so plan accordingly.)

It is your responsibility to plan ahead of time when it comes to figuring out what computer you will be working on. You should also arrange for a backup computer to use just in case you have difficulty with the first one. See Blackboard for access to computers on campus. You should provide yourself with more than one option.
NO EMAILED SUBMISSIONS OR HARD COPIES AFTER THE ALLOTED TIME WILL BE ACCEPTED. THEY WILL NOT BE READ.

Excellent writing assignments will consist of the following:
They will tackle the assignment given and not stray from that assignment.
They will meet the word count (following the specified guidelines above).
The argument presented will be clear and coherent. You should be clear on what your conclusion is and the premises, which should provide support for your conclusion. The entire essay should be relevant to the argument you are presenting.
The essay will exhibit logical structure and flow. The writer will make logical connections between his or her sentences and develop his or her reasoning (an essay ought never to read like a grocery list). The essay will transition from one paragraph to the next.
The essay will have been adequately proofed, making no errors in grammar and punctuation.
The essay will exhibit a sophisticated understanding of the material (philosophical concepts and problems) we’ve covered in class as well employ a sophisticated use of vocabulary.

Excellent writing assignments will receive an *[asterisk]. Any and all asterisks will be considered when it comes to calculating a student’s final grade for the course and might warrant raising the student’s grade.
Quizzes
These will be up on Blackboard on specified Fridays for a 24-hour period. I will discuss how this will work in more detail in class.

4 Film Exercises
We will view films in the class and do group work, raising questions and developing arguments concerning the philosophical issues in the films. On a viewing date, there will be a sign-up sheet, which you will sign at the beginning of class. There will be a short reflective writing exercise, which you will submit at the end of class. You will receive full points as long as you perform both tasks. Once I begin class, you will not be able to sign-in, which means you will count as absent and will receive no points. NO EXCEPTIONS, NO MATTER WHAT THE EXCUSE.

Movies
We will watch, discuss and evaluate some movies relevant to the issues we are discussing. The viewing of the movie while perhaps not as rigorous as the reading of a philosophical text does require focus on your part. The movies will dramatize particular questions, concerns and/or problems, which we have been reading about in the texts and discussing in lecture. Our aim then will be to identify the philosophical import of the film and to analyze it in light of the texts and lectures. In the event that I assign a particular film and we are unable to watch all or any of it during class time, the student will be required to watch the film outside of class and come to class prepared to discuss it. The films might be difficult to watch due to some disturbing subject matter and scenes of both a violent and sexual nature. If any student has a concern about this she or he should come talk to me outside of class. That being said, a student’s concern does not negate the student’s responsibility for viewing these films. If any student feels (for whatever reason) that they cannot watch any of the films, they should drop the course. If a film is assigned, it is your responsibility and obligation as a student of this course to watch it. If you cannot meet this obligation, you should not be in this class. What follows is a list of the films. This is only a possible list. Do not expect that we will watch all of these films or any particular one of these films. If we do, however, watch a film it will be chosen from this list.

Fernando Meirelles’ and Katia Lund’s City of God
Woody Allen’s Crimes & Misdemeanors
Quentin Tarantino’s Pulp Fiction

Failure to complete any of the above work could result in a failure to pass the course even if you have an A on all the work you have completed. In other words, completion of all the work above is considered mandatory for passing the course.

Discussion: You are not graded on participation in the class. But participation has proved to be a good indicator of success in the course as it helps in comprehension as well as the student’s acquiring the skills necessary to good critical reasoning. I take participation into consideration at the end of the term. It can make a difference for a student whose performance places them on the border between two grades.

Extra Credit: There is none. Just do the work assigned to you. BUT, substantive and substantial contribution to our discussions will be taken into consideration when calculating your final grade for the course.

Academic Integrity
Students are responsible for doing their own work. Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Any work deemed not to be the student’s own will result in the following: (1) a failing
grade (F) for the course, (2) dismissal from the course and (3) a frank discussion with me about the matter. There is a fourth possible consequence and that is that I will submit a report at which point disciplinary action will be taken. But I suspect #3 will be the most painful of the consequences of committing plagiarism. If I were you, I wouldn’t risk it. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, consult the Writing Center here at Cabrillo. They have general guidelines as to plagiarism and how to avoid it on their website.
(www.cabrillo.edu/services/writingcenter/Plagiarism.html)
If you have any further questions or concerns come see me.

**Attendance:** The course is structured in such a way that requires regular attendance. Attendance alone will not assure you of a high grade or even a passing grade but missing frequently will almost assuredly lead to a poor one. Every student is expected to attend regularly.

**Blackboard**
A complete schedule of the course (i.e. what we will be doing on a particular day) will be posted on the Blackboard calendar. I will post the schedule month by month. You should make a habit of checking blackboard frequently, certainly before you come to each class as I may periodically post announcements concerning the class.

**Note:** The Professor (that’s me) reserves the right to modify this syllabus as events warrant including the point scale above, which may be modified depending on the performance of the class.

**Classroom Decorum Guidelines**
We all must agree in advance to a code of behavior in the classroom that will promote an equal opportunity to learn for all students. Remember, we are only in class three hours per week. So let’s use our time wisely and agree to the following.

**Cell Phones and Beepers and Pagers:** Shut them off before you enter class. I’ll have to shut mine off too (and if I don’t, you have permission to call me on it, just don’t use your cell phone to do it).

**Class Participation:** During most classes you will have an opportunity to ask questions and respond to questions. I will call on you if you raise your hand. Just respect the time constraints of the class and that you are one of a number of students. Give other students equal opportunity and remember that sometimes dialogue may have to be cut short in order to get through the material.

**Arriving Late:** If you arrive late, just take your seat in as quiet a manner as possible and no need for excuses (unless they are particularly interesting ones that involve Marat Safin, Wynton Marsalis, Daniel Craig or Monica Bellucci). That being said, you should not make a habit of this. If you are considerably late consistently, I will consider dropping you from the course.

**Sleeping:** If you didn’t get a good night sleep, bring a double shot of espresso with you. In fact, if you did get a good night sleep, bring a double shot of espresso. In other words, try your best not to (i.e. slumber). Think of it this way, if you’re going to be sleeping wouldn’t you rather be doing so in the comfort of your own bed, with the lights dimmed and listening to some nice comforting music like Jimi Hendrix, Led Zeppelin or the Doors? Rather than in an uncomfortable chair with harsh florescent lighting and my voice interrupting your dreams with talk of Kant’s *categorical imperative*? Of course if you absolutely must, be warned. Stay at the back of the room, no sleepwalking, no talking in your sleep unless it’s of philosophic import and by all means, snore quietly.
Food: I’ve got no problem with it so long as what you bring doesn’t pose a disruption to other students. Bringing a little something to eat and/or drink with you to class is fine with me so long as you take your trash with you and dispose of it in the trashcan, don’t make a mess at your desk and above all don’t talk with food in your mouth.