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 Office Hours: M & W 9:15-10:15 AM; Tue 11:45-1:15; Thu 11:45-12:15; Online Thu 12:15-1:15
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Course Description and Introduction: There are two main objectives for this course. The first is to introduce you to the kinds of issues addressed in the area of philosophy called Ethics and to encourage independent reflection on them. The second is to address specific questions and the answers given by historical and contemporary philosophers concerning the following questions and theories: What is Ethics? Does ethics require God? Is ethics relative or objective? Why should one be moral? What is the nature of ethical value? We will explore Utilitarianism, Kantian ethics/deontological systems, Contractarianism, and Virtue ethics.

Required Texts : *Ethical Theory: Classical and Contemporary Readings*, 5th Edition. By Louis P. Pojman

Course Requirements: Final grades will be determined by class participation, quizzes, a short paper, and four exams, including a final exam, as outlined below:

In-Class Exams: 30%	Final Exam: 25%	Paper: 20%	Participation: 15%	Quizzes: 10%
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Writing assignments will be due at the beginning of class. They will be graded by letters ranging from an A to an F.

There will be four exams throughout the semester, two smaller exams and a comprehensive final. Before each exam I will tell you what kinds of topics will be on the test so you can prepare accordingly. Scantrons are need, the form is 882-E.

In addition to the Paper and exams, there will be 4 **pop** quizzes, each is worth 2.5% of your final grade. There will also be a short paper (4-6 pages) assigned near the end of the semester. The specifics of the paper will be covered in class.

Finally, a significant component of your final grade will be based on your participation in class. To do well in the class, you should attend class meetings on a regular basis. Also, you can participate by raising interesting questions and comments in class. **Please make sure cell phones and any other electronic device are turned off while you are in class!**

Plagiarism: We'll talk about plagiarism on the first day of class so that everyone will know what exactly it is. Plagiarism means attempting to give the reader the idea that words or ideas in an essay are your own when in fact they are someone else's. This is a serious academic offense that can get you thrown out of college. Don't take chances! If you have questions about what should be documented or cited, please ask me.

Attendance: You may be absent from two classes with no consequences. If you miss more than two classes, then you must bring valid documentation (doctor's note, jury duty notice, receipt from mechanic etc.) to the next class meeting or you will be dropped from the course. While you are in class you will be expected to turn cell phones off and not use them in any capacity. If you are late to class you are free to come in and join the class but you will be marked absent.

Disability Statement: Each student at Imperial Valley College has the same rights, and privileges as any other student; this includes students with disabilities. Students in this course who have documented disability should meet with a Disabled Student Services and Programs (DSP&S) Counselor as soon as possible as well as notify me in some way. The DSP&S office is located in the Health Sciences Building, room 2117. The telephone number is 355-6312.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's):

By the completion of this course the student should be able to describe and critique major arguments in Metaethics, Normative Ethics and Applied Ethics.

Assessment Tool: Final

Institutional Outcome: ISLO1, ISLO2, ISLO4

Semester Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule of the course and may change if required. You will be expected to have read the assigned reading by the time you attend the relevant class.

Note: Reading listed on a certain day are **To Have Been Read** on that day.

Date	Assignment
Feb. 17	Course overview and what is Ethics?
Feb. 22	Ruth Benedict: A Defense of Ethical Relativism.
Feb 24	A.J. Ayer: Emotivism
Mar. 1	(Group Work) Louis Pojman: A Critique of Ethical Relativism.
Mar. 3	Louis Pojman: A Critique of Ethical Relativism.
Mar. 8	Divine Command Theory Plato "Euthyphro" hand out
Mar. 10	Divine Command Theory (Group Work)
Mar. 15	Kai Nielson: Ethics Without God
Mar. 17	Study Session
Mar. 22	Test one
Mar. 24	Jeremy Bentham: Classical Hedonism
Mar. 29	John Stuart Mill: Utilitarianism.
Mar. 31	J.J.C. Smart: Extreme and Restricted Utilitarianism
Apr.5-7	Spring Break
Apr. 12	Hospers: Rule-Utilitarianism
Apr. 14	Robert Nozick: The Experience Machine. (Group Work)Immanuel Kant: Foundation for the Metaphysic of Morals.
Apr. 19	Immanuel Kant: Foundation for the Metaphysic of Morals.
Apr. 21	Group Work
Apr. 26	Test 2
Apr. 28	Alan Gewirth: The Objective Status of Human Rights.
May.3	Moral Rights Continued
May.5	John Rawls: Contractualism: Justice as Fairness.
May. 10	Aristotle: The Ethics of Virtue.
May. 12	Frankena: A Critique of Virtue-Based Ethics.
May. 17	Friedrich Nietzsche: The Transvaluation of Values.
May. 19	Mary Anne Warren: On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion
May. 24	Judith Jarvis Thompson: A Defense of Abortion
May. 26	Peter Singer: Famine Relief Paper is Due
May. 31	Memorial Day
June. 2	Review for Final
June. 7	Final Exam 10:15-11:45 am