



## TENTATIVE SYLLABUS

UC 410: Spring Semester 2009 (M-W-F 12:00-12:50 p.m.)

42 sessions

January	5	Introduction; Syllabus, Policies
	7	What is Ethics? (Class Poll to be re-evaluated at the end of the semester)
	9	Introduction to Logic – Argument Fallacies
	12	Moral Relativisms Reading: Arthur, pp. 32-41 (“Relativism in Ethics”, M. Midgley
	14	“Trying Out One’s New Sword”)
	16	Ethical Egoism / Altruism
	21	<i>Ethics and the News (1):</i> <b>Article-copy and question list due</b>
	23	Consequentialism & Utilitarianism
	26	Reading: Arthur pp. 65-72 (selections from Mill “Utilitarianism”),
	30	83-89 (“The Real & Alleged Problems of Utilitarianism”)
	2	Famine & Affluence
February	4	Reading: Peter Singer “Famine, Affluence & Morality”
	6	Justice and Liberty Reading: Arthur pp. 450-451 (Hume “Of Justice”, Rawls)
	9	<b>First Midterm Test</b>
	11	Deontology & Kantianism
	13	Reading: Arthur pp. 56-65 (selections from <i>The Metaphysic of Morals</i> ),
	16	78-83 (O’Neil “Kant & Utilitarianism Contrasted”)
	18	War & Terrorism <b>Thought-essay paper #1 due (2/18)</b>
	20	Reading: Thomas Nagel “War & Massacre”
	2	<i>Ethics and the News (2):</i> <b>Article-copy and question list due</b>
March	4	Virtue Ethics
	6	Reading: Arthur pp 50-56 (selections from <i>Nichomachean Ethics</i> )
	9	Animal Well-Being Reading: Arthur pp. 158-167 (Singer “All Animals Are Equal”,
	11	“Speciesism & the Idea of Equality”), 173-177 (Baxter, “People or Penguins”)
	13	<b>Second Midterm Test</b>
	16	
	18	Feminist Ethics
	20	Reading: Arthur pp. 89-93 (Held, “Feminist Transformations of Moral Theory”)
	23	Religious Perspectives
	25	Reading: Arthur pp. 16-23 (“Morality, Religion & Conscience”)
	27	<b>Thought-essay paper #2 due</b>
	30	Abortion
	1	Reading: Arthur, pp. 206-239 (selections from <i>Roe v. Wade</i> ,
April	3	Thomson “A Defense of Abortion”, Marquis “ <i>An Argument That Abortion Is Wrong</i> ”
	6	<i>Ethics and the News (3):</i> <b>Article-copy and question list due</b>
	8	Life Decisions
	15	Reading: Arthur pp. 248-260 (Rachels “Active & Passive Euthanasia”)
	17	Death Penalty (Terlmutter - “Desert and Capital Punishment”)
	20	
	22	Final Paper Presentations <b>Final Paper due</b>
	24	
	28	<b>Final Exam (3:30-5:30)</b>

The above schedule is tentative; changes will be announced in class. While assignments will be due as indicated above (unless otherwise announced), the order of the topics might vary slightly.

**Assignments:**

(i) 3 Tests = 45% (First Midterm 15%, Second Midterm 15%, Final Exam 15%).

All the tests will be partly objective and partly essay.

They will not be comprehensive, i.e. all three cover different material.

(ii) Thought papers and final paper = 40%

(First Paper: 2-3 pages 10%)

Second Paper: 2-3 pages 10%

Final Paper: 3-5 pages 20%)

The first two critical thought-essays will be about topics studied in that portion of the course. Thus, the second paper will address a topic studied since the first paper was due. Suggested topics will be distributed in class. The final paper will be a more substantial treatment of one of the issues we discussed during the term and will be accompanied by a class presentation. The instructor will hand out more details on the specifics for each paper well in advance.

(iii) News presentations, general class participation, possible quizzes = 15%.

For the "News" assignments, students will turn in a cover sheet title page and article photocopy. The title page will include identifying information and a list of the main ethical issues raised by the article. More details will be provided in a handout.

The rest of this portion of your grade will be determined by active, intelligent, informed participation in class. If the overall student participation in the class is not adequately high, there might be some several-minute, in-class writing tasks about the day's work (quizzes). You will be informed for them at least a session in advance.

**Other Policies:**

Students must complete all parts of the course to earn a passing grade. Thus, papers, news assignments, possible quizzes and tests should not be thought of as optional. Because of this requirement, it is your responsibility to make sure that your instructor has received all the assignments. For instance, it would be too late to approach the instructor during finals week and claim that you submitted your first paper and he misplaced it. If you do not receive your grade when the other students do, it is time to ask the instructor about your assignment.

Make-up tests will be given only if there is written documentation of an urgent situation. If you anticipate or discover a problem, for example, because of health or personal situations or schedule conflicts or uncertainty about some aspect of any assignment, you must communicate with the instructor about this as soon as you become aware of it. The quickest way to contact the instructor, other than communicating with him before or after class or at his office, is to call and leave messages at his phone number. If you have to send an email about it, make sure the instructor replies with an acknowledgement.

Late assignments are penalized by one half letter per (unexcused) session late, with a maximum of four sessions for a passing grade, applied to the paper's grade. No late papers will be accepted in the last week of classes or during finals.

A pattern of lateness to class, frequent or early departure from class or disruptive behavior will adversely affect the course grade. The extent of effect on the grade will depend on the extent of lateness, disruptiveness, or departures.

In accordance with policies of the university, cheating and plagiarism will not be permitted, and will result in failure for that assignment and possibly for the course, as well as other penalties. Read the university's current policies in the student handbook regarding academic integrity. This can be found at

[http://oldsite.capital.edu/cc/stusvcs/Academic\\_Integrity\\_Policy.pdf](http://oldsite.capital.edu/cc/stusvcs/Academic_Integrity_Policy.pdf)