Introduction to Ethics (Online) Summer I 2021
Department of Political Science and Philosophy

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(Note: while we appear to have turned the corner on Covid-19 the planning for the course had to be done six months in advance, thus this course is taught entirely online).

Course Description
Sometimes called MORAL PHILOSOPHY, ethics serves to introduce students to ethical dilemmas and how philosophy approaches these. This is the branch of philosophy that questions what is good and bad, and why certain actions are right or wrong. In this class we will deal with questions such as the relation between ethics and religion? Can we have one without the other? And what is ethics? Are there universal moral principles? Should all human beings have the same moral values? How do we know what is right? Where do our moral values come from; reason? Emotion? Experience? The senses? Or perhaps morality is produced by culture and convention, or from social acculturation? Is an action good or bad in itself? Does it depend on our intentions?

Readings
You must make an attempt to spend several hours per day doing the readings. Be realistic, you will not do well on the course unless you do the required reading, or at least make an attempt. There are no shortcuts in philosophy. The number one reason for poor performance in college philosophy courses is a failure to do the reading. You cannot fake it. Reading philosophy texts is not like reading a newspaper or a novel, one dense paragraph of philosophy can contain many new ideas.

Assessment
Four papers 25% each

Papers
You will be expected to write an answer of about 800-1000 words. There will be 2 questions to choose from and these will be made available on Blackboard (see calendar below). All papers should be submitted to Blackboard. The main reason why students under-perform with regard to papers is that they do not engage with course material. Papers often tend towards ‘stream of consciousness’ with few references to what has been studied. It is expected in a philosophy class, even in an intro class, that you will have learned the philosopher’s names and can accurately point to what ideas and concepts are associated with these philosophers, and how to deploy these ideas in a coherent fashion. Higher grades will be awarded to those who can do some of this. No internet sources on papers, course content only.
Papers will be assessed on:
Ability to answer the question.
Accuracy, are your claims factually correct?
Relevance, are you on topic or wandering off?
Comprehension and understanding of key texts.
Effort and application; seriousness, working hard or blowing off the course?
Rule following, i.e. are you able to follow submission guidelines and other instructions, such as NOT using the internet and avoiding cliche and generalization.

Academic Honesty
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the University Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the ASU Student Handbook. See the Current Student page on the ASU homepage (URL address http://www.angelo.edu/student/) and click on the Academic Honor Code. Acts of academic dishonesty and misconduct as referenced in Angelo State University's Student Handbook will be referred to the Dean of Students.

Religious Observances
Every effort will be made to accommodate all forms of religious observance in compliance with ASU OP 10.19. Students who require additional arrangements to be made should make these known in good time in order that arrangements can be made.

Accommodations for Disability
ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation. The Student Affairs Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Student Affairs Office, Suite 112 of the Houston Harte University Center, at 325-942-2047 (phone) or 325-942-2211 (fax) or by e-mail at studentservices@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Student Affairs Office will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

ASU Mission Statement
Angelo State University, a member of the Texas Tech University System, delivers undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and professional disciplines. In a learning-centered environment distinguished by its integration of teaching, research, creative endeavor, service, and co-curricular experiences, ASU prepares students to be responsible citizens and to have productive careers.

Title IX at Angelo State University
Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating
violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance. This is done in order to connect students with resources and options in addressing the allegations reported. As a student, you are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator. You may do so by contacting:

Michelle Miller, J.D.
Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022
michelle.miller@angelo.edu

Grading Scale
A90% Outstanding
B80% Very good
C70% Satisfactory
D60% Min required
F- Fail

The Course Calendar
(I reserve the right to change the course from time to time when necessary)

The 16 weeks of learning are normally divided into two halves, Part I would be 8 weeks of ethical systems, and Part II 8 weeks of moral dilemmas. Because this is a short summer semester I have reduced this to an intro (week 1) and two weeks of ethical systems (weeks 2 & 3) and one week of moral dilemmas (week 4).

PART 1 Systems of Ethics

Week 1 (Monday June 7 through Sunday June 13)
Readings: Chapter 1, *Ethics and Ethical Reasoning* (textbook)
Chapter 2, *Religion and Global Ethics* (textbook)

First Paper: due on Sunday, June 13, at 5 pm. Paper questions will open on Friday June 11 at 8 am. All papers must be submitted on Blackboard.

Week 2 (Monday June 14 through June 20)
Readings: Chapter 4, Egoism, Altruism and the Social Contract
Chapter 5, *Utilitarianism and John Stuart Mill*

Second Paper: due on Sunday June 20 at 5 pm. Paper questions will open on Friday June 18 at 8 am.

Week 3 (Monday June 21 through Sunday June 27)
Readings: Chapter 6, *Deontological Ethics and Immanuel Kant*
Chapter 7, Natural Law and Human Rights

**Third Paper:** due on Sunday June 27 at 5 pm. Paper questions will open on Friday June 25 at 8 am.

**PART 2 Ethical Issues and Moral Dilemmas**

**Week 4 (June 28 through Tuesday July 8)**

**Readings:**
- Chapter 11, *Abortion*
- Chapter 14, *Economic Justice*
- Chapter 15, *Punishment and the Death Penalty*

**Final Paper:** due July 9 at 5 pm. Paper questions will open on Monday July 5 at 8 am. All papers must be submitted on Blackboard.