Rutgers University
PHIL 730:107 Section 2
Introduction to Ethics
Summer 2014

Times: Mon. Tues. Wed. and Thurs. (May 27th to July 3rd) 10:20am to 12:10pm
Location: CI (School of Communication and Information), Room 101
Professor: Christopher G. Weaver
E-mail: cgweaver [at] rci [dot] rutgers [dot] edu (replacing the term ‘at’ with ‘@’ and the ‘dot’ place-holders with two periods or ‘.’s) Emails to any other address will be ignored.
Office Hours: Every Tuesday we have class from 1:00pm to 2:00pm on the 5th Floor in office 510 at 106 Somerset St. New Brunswick, NJ (in the Gateway Building).
Materials: Course lecture notes will be emailed to you.

I. Course Description
PHIL 730:107 sect. 2: Introduction to Ethics is an intensive survey course. We will cover virtually every substantive issue peculiar to metaethics and normative ethical theory. “This course satisfies Core Curriculum Goal: ‘o’. Examine critically philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of reality, human experience, knowledge, value, and/or cultural production.”

II. Learning Objectives
1. Students will develop the skill to properly interpret scholarly literature in the field of ethics and in the subfields of metaethics and normative ethics.
2. Students will develop the ability to write a philosophy paper in the field of ethics.
3. Students will acquire the ability to engage in philosophical inquiry about issues peculiar to ethics.
4. Students will learn all of the leading metaethical theories and normative ethical theories, including, but not limited to moral realism, moral fictionalism, moral error theory, moral cognitivism, moral non-cognitivism, utilitarianism, Kantianism, contractualism, and virtue ethics.

III. General Approach

On designated quiz days (see the schedule below), at the start of class I will administer a quiz over the assigned reading material, as well as the material presented during previous lectures. I will then collect the quizzes and go over the correct answers taking any questions you might have. I will then make a few points about the assigned reading, and subsequently start lecturing through material. On days we do not take a quiz, we will first discuss the assigned reading, and then move into the content of a new lecture. All lectures will be supported by lecture notes or handouts. These lecture notes will, at the latest, be made available to you electronically through email by 8:00am on the day I am scheduled to lecture on the topic the relevant notes cover, though I may decide to provide hard copies in class.

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1 The Instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus when he deems that a change is necessary.
IV. Textbooks

The required textbooks for this course are:


V. Assignments and Grading

Preparation and Class Attendance 10%

You are expected to read all of the assigned material. You are also expected to ask questions during the lectures and participate in in-class activities. **Missing more than two classes will negatively affect your grade.** If you are absent, you might want to e-mail a classmate and get the notes. It is your responsibility to keep up with any work you miss. Class participation grades will also be negatively affected if disrespect is shown to others.

Quizzes 30%

These will be given at the beginning of class on designated quiz days (see the schedule below) and will cover material peculiar to the assigned reading and lecture material of the preceding classes. **Your lowest quiz score will be dropped and will not count against you.** If you miss a quiz because you are late to or absent from class, you will receive a zero for that quiz, but remember, your lowest quiz score will not count against you.

Short Paper 25%

Your short paper must be on an issue in meta-ethics that we discussed in class. Please have your short paper topic approved by Instructor Weaver by February 28th. To acquire my approval of your topic, please email me with the subject heading “Short Paper Topic for Approval”, then in the body of your email state the thesis you intend to argue for. You should argue for or against a metaethical position, advancing arguments for your position. Your paper should be 3 pages *single spaced*, justified, and in Times New Roman font (size 12), with one inch margins. The paper should be documented in the University of Chicago of manual of style and should include a bibliography. **Short papers are due in PDF format via email, on June 19th, 2014 at 11:00am.** A late paper will be docked five points every hour it is late.

Final Paper 35%

Your final paper should be on a topic covered in class or in one of the textbooks (it should be different from the topic you wrote your short paper on). Please have your final paper topic approved by Instructor Weaver by March 31st. To acquire my approval of your topic, please email me with the subject heading “Final Paper Topic for Approval”, then in the body of your email state the thesis you intend to argue for. Your paper should be 7 to 10 pages *single spaced*, justified, and in Times New Roman font (size 12), with one inch margins. Your bibliography may not be used to fulfill the length requirement. If the prose or substantive content portion of your paper exceeds 10 pages, that content will be ignored. The paper must be documented in the University of Chicago manual of style.
and should include a bibliography. **Final papers are due in PDF format via email, on July 8th, 2014 at 11:00am.** A late paper will be docked five points every hour it is late.

VI. Schedule for the Summer Session

(All readings in red are mandatory; all other readings are supplementary and helpful but not required. The underlined readings will be provided for you.)

**Part 1: Metaethics**

0 (Tuesday, May 27th): Introduction to Ethics  

1 (Wednesday, May 28th): Moral Non-Cognitivism and Moral Fictionalism (Quiz Today)  

2 (Thursday, May 29th): Moral Cognitivism  

3 (Monday, June 2nd): Moral Error Theory (Quiz Today)  

4 (Tuesday, June 3rd): Against Moral Error Theory  

5 (Wednesday, June 4th): The Open Question Argument and the Naturalistic Fallacy (Quiz Today)  
6 (Thursday, June 5th): Responses to the Open Question Argument

7 (Monday, June 9th): Ethical Naturalism (Quiz Today)

8 (Tuesday, June 10th): Ethical Non-Naturalism

9 (Wednesday, June 11th): Moral Realism (Quiz Today)

10 (Thursday, June 12th): Course Related Media

11 (Monday, June 16th): The Humean Theory

12 (Tuesday, June 17th): The Kantian Theory of Practical Rationality (Quiz Today)

13 (Wednesday, June 18th): Divine Command Theory

Part 2: Normative Ethics

14 (Thursday, June 19th): Value Theory (Short Paper due Today) (Quiz Today)

15 (Monday, June 23rd): Ethical Relativism (Quiz Today)
16 (Tuesday, June 24th): Deontology

17 (Wednesday, June 25th): Consequentialism (Quiz Today)

18 (Thursday, June 26th): Utilitarianisms

19 (Monday, June 30th): Kantian Ethics (Quiz Today)

20 (Tuesday, July 1st): Virtue Ethics

21 (Wednesday, July 2nd): Contractualism (Quiz Today)

22 (Thursday, July 3rd): Ethical Pluralism

Final papers are due in PDF format via email, on July 8th, 2014 at 11:00am.
VII. Current Academic Integrity Policy
To view the current academic integrity policy, visit the link [here](#). All students are expected to abide by that policy.

VIII. Self-Reporting Absence Application:
“Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website [https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/](https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/) to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me [the instructor].”

IX. Food, Cell Phone, and Computer Use Policies
I do not allow students to consume food in class. Moreover, because the lecture notes will be provided for each student, I will not allow cell phone and computer use in class during lecture time. When lecture begins, all computers and cell phones must be stored.

X. Email Correspondence Policy
All email correspondence with your instructor must be done using your academic (usually the one provided for you by Rutgers University) email address (that’s an email address ending with .edu). Correspondence from your instructor to the entire class will be performed via [R.A.M.S](#). Email correspondence received from non-academic email addresses will be ignored. Email correspondence sent to any other email address besides cgweaver [at] rci [dot] rutgers [dot] edu (replacing the term ‘at’ with ‘@’ and the ‘dot’ place-holders with periods or ‘.’s) in an attempt to communicate with me will be ignored.