Philosophies of Life – PHIL 1213 – 22548
10:30 – 11:20am – CLB 319

Instructor: Heath Allen
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Office Hrs: MW 12-1pm (& by appt.)

Required Texts:

Possible web readings posted on D2L

Course Objectives:

This course has two primary goals: 1) To provide an introduction to a variety of philosophical issues, covering topics in moral theory and specific ethical issues; and 2) To develop skills in critical thinking, analysis, argument, and general philosophical ability.

Requirements:

Quizzes – 10 quizzes will count toward your final grade. There will be weekly in-class quizzes (as many as 15), but only your ten highest quiz grades will be kept. Quizzes are given at the beginning of class. Late or make-up quizzes will not be given.

Writing Assignment – The writing assignments will consist of 5 one-page reflection papers. These papers will be due roughly at the end of each month, except for May’s submission, which will be due on the last day of classes. More details on these papers will be posted in prompts on D2L.

Two Exams - One midterm and one non-comprehensive final exam.

Attendance will be recorded, but will not directly constitute a percentage of your grade. Attendance and participation in class discussions will, however, be considered in “borderline” letter grade cases (i.e., a final grade of 79% will be bumped up to a B with good attendance/participation, or will remain a C with poor attendance/participation). However, since in-class quizzes will constitute 25% of your final grade, frequent absences will almost inevitably result in a poor overall grade.
Course Evaluation and Grading:

Writing Submissions: (5 @ 20 pts.) = 100 pts.
Exams: (2 @ 100 pts.) = 200 pts.
Quizzes: (10 @ 10 pts.) = 100 pts.

Total: 400 pts.

You will need at least 360 pts for an A, 320 pts for a B, 280 pts for a C, or 240 pts for a D.

Participation in class discussion is a vital part of this course! Questions are highly encouraged. In philosophy, learning to ask the right questions in the right way can often make the difference between comprehension and outright confusion.

All writing assignments will be graded based on a number of factors, including but not limited to: clarity of exposition, fair and accurate explication of the viewpoints and arguments discussed, ability to critically analyze arguments and to respond to critical objections, and a general exhibition of your understanding of the material.

Additional Course Policies:

Laptops, cell phones, or other similar distracting devices are not to be used during class, except in cases of demonstrated need and after approval by instructor.

Course Readings: (Subject to revision.)

Part One: Moral Theory
“Moral Isolationism” p. 50-56
“Egoism and Moral Skepticism” p. 57-68
“God and Morality” p. 69-71

“Leviathan” p. 72-81 (see also p. 13-14)
“Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals” p. 82-94 (see also p. 20-23, 25-32)
“Utilitarianism” p. 95-106 (see also p. 8-10, 14-20)
“Virtue Ethics” p. 107-109 (see also p. 32-34)
“The Ethics of Care” p. 110-123

“A Theory of Justice” p. 331-337
“Racisms” p. 381-387
“Sexism” p. 388-397
“Five Faces of Oppression” p. 398-412

Midterm Exam (Date TBA)
Part Two: Ethical Issues

“A Defense of Abortion” p. 567-583
“On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion” p. 585-599
“An Argument that Abortion is Wrong” p. 600-606
“Abortion and Miscarriage” p. 607-615
“Active and Passive Euthanasia” p. 653-659
“Killing and Letting Die” p. 660-668

“The Death Penalty as a Symbolic Issue” p. 322-329
“Pornography, Oppression, and Freedom” p. 227-237
“The Case Against Pornography: An Assessment” p. 238-243
“Equality for Animals” p. 686-703
“Speciesism and the Idea of Equality” p. 704-711
“The Case for Animal Rights” p. 712-721
“Speaking of Animal Rights” p. 722-732

[More readings TBA]

Final Exam: Monday, May 6th, 10:00-11:50 am
Miscellaneous:

Academic Dishonesty & Misconduct
Oklahoma State University is committed to the maintenance of the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct of its members. This level of ethical behavior and integrity will be maintained in this course. Participating in a behavior that violates academic integrity (e.g., unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, multiple submissions, cheating on examinations, fabricating information, helping another person cheat, unauthorized advance access to examinations, altering or destroying the work of others, and fraudulently altering academic records) will result in your being sanctioned. Violations may subject you to disciplinary action including the following: receiving a failing grade on an assignment, examination or course, receiving a notation of a violation of academic integrity on your transcript (F!), and being suspended from the University. You have the right to appeal the charge. Contact the Office of Academic Affairs, 101 Whitehurst, 405-744-5627, academicintegrity.okstate.edu.

University Syllabus Attachment:
Syllabus Attachment

Plagiarism
“Presenting the written, published or creative work of another as the student’s own work. Whenever the student uses wording, arguments, data, design, etc., belonging to someone else in a paper, report, oral presentation, or other assignment, the student must make this fact explicitly clear by correctly citing the appropriate references or sources. The student must fully indicate the extent to which any part or parts of the project are attributed to others. The student must also provide citations for paraphrased materials.”
http://info.library.okstate.edu/ILS/plagiarism

Plagiarism will NOT be tolerated.

Special Accommodations
Students with a qualified disability requiring special accommodations should notify me at the start of the semester and request verification of eligibility for accommodations through the Office of Student Disability Services, 315 Student Union, 744-7116, www.okstate.edu/ucs/stdis/.