Instructor: Justin Rice,  
Teaching Assistant Professor of Philosophy  
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TA: Michael Menase  
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Office Hours: T/R, 2:00-3:00pm, & by appointment  
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Overview: Introduction to selected views of living a meaningful life in light of morality, social values, truth and freedom. Current events and social problems will be discussed in this class.

Texts:

A. *Readings in Moral Philosophy*, edited by Wolff (available in the university bookstore).  
B. *Being Peace*, by Thich Nhat Hanh (available in the university bookstore).  
C. Various handouts, videos and other materials on Brightspace (D2L).

Required Materials:

A. At least six orange Scan Trons (do not get the green Scan Trons).  
B. At least six large Blue Book (do not get the small Blue Books).

Structure of the Course: Every Friday, this course breaks into two different discussion sections. Each section is run by Mr. Menase. Make sure that you are attending the section in which you are enrolled. On Mondays and Wednesdays, both sections will attend class from 9:30-10:20 in CLB 102. On Fridays, section 22662 will meet in CLB 102, from 9:30-10:20, while section 26596 will meet in CLB 119, from 10:30-11:20.

Students are expected to show up to class ready to discuss the assigned readings and any other material pertaining to our current unit. I will give class lectures that help clarify the readings, but students are expected to be involved as well (for instance, by asking questions about the readings or lecture).

You can expect to do a lot of reading for this course. When you are reading the assigned material, it is recommended that you take personal notes over any issues or questions you
may have and bring those notes to class with you. You will need to bring the textbook and/or readings to class with you every day.

Regarding our class discussions, students are expected to engage in reasoned discourse that takes into account opposing views, and they must be able to separate issues and positions from the persons advocating them. Philosophy is best done through civil discussion. Each student will be expected to treat one another with respect and tolerance. I will not abide rude and disrespectful behavior.

It would be to your benefit to consult Brightspace (D2L) on a regular basis. Announcements will be given in the News section. All of the reading assignments are posted in the Content section, as are all of the additional materials for the course; lectures will follow the order and structure of the readings as they appear in this section. The dates of the quizzes are listed in D2L’s Calendar. Finally, all grades for the semester are recorded in the Grades portion of D2L, so that you may keep track of your progress throughout the semester.

Course Requirements:

Quizzes: There will be 12 quizzes, worth 25 points each for a total of 300 points. The format of the quizzes will vary; they may be some combination of T/F, matching, multiple choice, short answer and essay. Each Blue Book quiz will involve 2-3 pages of writing. As a general rule, do not come to class on Fridays without both a Scan Tron and Blue Book (some quizzes will require both).

Discussion Post Essays: There will be two discussion post essays, each worth 50 points (for a total of 100 points). The style of the essays will be argumentative/persuasive (see guidelines below). Your posts will be made in D2L’s Discussions section, where you will find the topics you are to select from.

The first post is due Wednesday, March 13th by 11:00pm. The second post is due Monday, May 6th by 11:00pm.

Please note:

(1) Both essays must meet all of the guidelines described in this syllabus and D2L. Failure to meet any of them will result in your post receiving up to a 50% deduction.

(2) The length of your post is expected to be between 550-575 words.

(3) You will receive both a grade and comments on these posts, and these two assignments are equivalent to no less than five full pages of essay writing.

(4) You must cite any and all material you use – even the textbooks/class readings! Please use either the MLA or APA format.

Breakdown:

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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>300 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Posts</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
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Grading Scale (for final grades): A=360-400, B=320-359, C=280-319, D=240-279, F=0-239

NOTE: To calculate your grade at any time in the semester, simply add up the points you have earned and divide that total by the total number of points offered at the time of your calculation. For example, if after a couple weeks, you have earned 42 out of 50 points, you would divide 42 by 50 and get .84 (which is 84% or a ‘B’). Since all grades will be posted on D2L, you can do this calculation whenever you like.

Policies:

Email: I have hundreds of students each semester, so it can take me a while to go through and respond to all of the emails I get; please allow 48 hours for a response – though I will get to you! When you email me or the TA, it is required that you put the name of our class in the subject line. In other words, I need it to be clear to me exactly in which class you are enrolled. Always sign your emails with your first and last name. Failure to meet these requirements could result in your email not being answered.

Electronic Devices: Using laptops and cellphones in my classes is not allowed. The first time I see you use a laptop or cell phone, you will get a warning; if I have to ask you to put your device away a second time, you will lose 10 points (and 10 points for any subsequent offense). The only exception to this is documentation from the Student Disability Services Office showing a particular student’s need to use a laptop in class.

Attendance: I do not take attendance, so missing class will not directly affect your grade. However, given the regular quizzes, students with poor attendance do not do well in my class. If you miss class, you are welcome to come talk to me during my office hours about what you missed – I am happy to help! But please do not email me asking “what you missed” or if you “missed anything important”; it’s not possible for us to adequately summarize an entire lecture in via email. If you are going to miss a class, you do not need to let us know in advance.

Late Work/Missed Quizzes: In almost all cases, we will not accept late assignments. However, we will work with anyone who has a genuine emergency, though we do require some official form of documentation. If you are going to miss a quiz for any reason, it is your responsibility to tell your TA beforehand and make arrangements to take the quiz. Only those who make prior arrangements are allowed to make up a missed quiz – no exceptions.

Extra Credit: We do not offer extra credit.

Students with Physical or Learning Disabilities: If you need special accommodations the University will try to make appropriate arrangements. These arrangements will need to be made ahead of time through the Student Disability Services Office, 315 Student Union (phone: 744-7116)

Academic Integrity: All written assignments will be electronically checked for plagiarism. If I discover academic dishonesty of any kind, I will seek the appropriate punishment. The University has a syllabus attachment available online that provides
information about the official academic integrity policy, important deadlines, and University resources:

http://osu.okstate.edu/acadaffr/aa/PDF%20Files/SYLATFA.pdf

**Please Note:** I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus. If any major changes to the syllabus are made (i.e., reading(s) deleted/added), they will be announced in class and on Brightspace.