

THE 5141 Ethics and Social Justice (draft)

Spring 2022, 3 credits
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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers major approaches to normative ethics: utilitarianism (Bentham and John Stuart Mill), deontological ethics (Kant), and virtue ethics (Aristotelianism, biblical ethics, Care ethics, Confucianism). Through the analysis of moral dilemmas taken from real cases, students will see how those ethical perspectives/principles are applied. The course also reviews other ethical positions including relativism (individual and cultural), egoism, and divine command ethics. The course will delve into philosophical issues including the origin of moral authority, human nature, moral autonomy, freedom, responsibility, justice, and social values. The course will touch upon hermeneutic questions of how to interpret moral principles and review both objectivist and constructivist approaches.

II. OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate major ethical theories/positions and critically assess their strength and weakness.
2. Articulate how major ethical theories/positions are applied to real cases and critically analyze moral dilemmas.
3. Critically analyze philosophical issues (values, meaning, human nature, etc.) on ethics and assess ethical reasoning from broader philosophical perspectives.
4. Critically analyze and assess ethical dimension of life of faith in personal and professional contexts.

Course Outcomes	Needs improvement	Progressing	Good	Excellent
Articulate major ethical theories/positions and critically assess their strength and weakness.	Articulate basic orientations of major ethical theories and positions; description is not accurate.	Articulate basic claims of major ethical theories/positions.	Articulate all major ethical theories and positions; articulate their distinct characteristics, strength and weakness; illustrate with some examples.	Demonstrate comprehensive understanding of all major ethical theories and positions; articulate their distinct characteristics, strength and weakness, and how they are

				applied in real life.
Articulate how major ethical theories/positions are applied to real cases and critically analyze moral dilemmas.	Articulate how each ethical theory/position is applied to a variety of cases; articulation of ethical reasoning in the process of application is very limited.	Articulate how each ethical theory/position is applied to a variety of cases; demonstrate awareness of ethical reasoning in the process of application.	Articulate how each ethical theory/position is applied to a variety of cases; critically analyze ethical reasoning in the process of application.	Articulate how each ethical theory/position is applied to a variety of cases; critically analyze and assess the complexity of ethical reasoning in the process of application and the interpretive dimension of their application.
Critically analyze philosophical issues (values, meaning, human nature, etc.) on ethics and assess ethical reasoning from broader philosophical perspectives.	Show awareness of philosophical issues about ethics.	Articulate a few philosophical questions about ethics.	Articulate various philosophical issues about ethics and critically analyze them.	Articulate, analyze, and assess philosophical issues about ethics including the questions of: human nature, meanings, good and evil, justice, power, moral autonomy, moral authority, happiness, religious faith, and values.
Critically analyze and assess ethical dimension of life of faith in personal and	Aware of ethical dimension of life of faith without critical	Aware of ethical dimension of life of faith with some indication of critical analysis and assessment.	Demonstrate critical thinking skills by analyzing and assessing ethical	Demonstrate critical thinking skills by analyzing and assessing ethical

professional contexts.	analysis and assessment of one's faith		dimension of life of faith; arguments are fair and reasonable.	dimension of life of faith; arguments are thoughtful and convincing.
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III. REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. Readings and Videos

Read assigned readings and watch videos.

2. Lecture Videos

Watch lecture-video of the week **before** class discussions on zoom. Lecture-videos are stored on Vimeo and accessible via the links on the **Lesson** page in Populi. It will become available on every Wed. a week before the zoom meeting.

3. Zoom Meeting for Discussion: Tue. 3:30 pm – 4:50 pm.

Zoom class meetings are for **discussions** only. Students are required to watch lecture-videos and finish readings before the zoom discussion.

If you missed any zoom meeting, you need to watch it (accessible in Populi) and write and email to the instructor one page reflection on the recorded discussion.

4. Midterm Take-home Exam

Midterm Take-home Exam will be posted on Populi and emailed to students at least one week before the due date.

5. Presentation

Give a slide presentation on the most striking ideas/perspectives you learned in the course. Explain what it is, why, and how. Present your response to it. Include critical analysis of your own views. Presentation topics must be approved by the instructor.

Post your name and presentation topic proposal on “**Discussion**” in Populi by **April 15**. Click **Discussion** on the left side of the page in Populi. The instructor will determine the order of presentation according to the topics. All topics must be approved by the instructor.

Prepare a slide presentation for 10 minutes, followed by discussions.

6. Term Paper

You need to answer both A and B. Due 11:59pm, Sunday May 22, 2021. Late submission will be penalized. Upload your paper on Populi. Click on Assignment on the left side of the screen, click on "Term Paper" folder, then upload your essay.

A. Choose only one question from the following four questions and answer in 500~600 words.

1. How might religion motivate people to behave morally? Why is this kind of motivation sometimes thought to be morally problematic?
2. "Since God created everything, God created morality. Therefore, the divine command theory is true." Assess this line of reasoning.
3. There are many different religious texts offering us moral guidance, and some of them give conflicting advice. Is there a reliable way of deciding which text (if any) is correct?
4. Is religious belief sufficient to become morally good? Why or why not.

B. Answer the following question in 500~600 words.

Describe the most striking points (be specific) you learned from the course and explain why and how they impact your perspective. Include critical assessments of your perspective.

GRADING

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|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. Midterm Exam | 20% |
| 2. Weekly Zoom Meetings | 35% |
| 3. Presentation | 20% |
| 4. A Term Paper | 25% |

Grades are recorded by letter.

A Excellent
B Good
C Acceptable
D Acceptable, but below expectations
F Failure

Grading Rubric:

In calculating the final grade for the course, letter grades for assignments are converted into the following numerical equivalents, and the total is then converted back to a letter grade:

A	97	A-	91.5	B+	87
B	82	B-	77	C+	72.5

C	67.5	C-	62.5	D+	57.5
D	53	D-	50	F	0

This scale severely penalizes Fs. Therefore, it is better to hand in a poorly done assignment than not to hand one in at all.

In computing the cumulative grade point average (G.P.A.) the following quality point scale is used:

A	4.00	A-	3.67	B+	3.33
B	3.00	B-	2.67	C+	2.33
C	2.00	C-	1.67	D+	1.33
D	1.00	D-	0.67	F	0.00

Incompletes are given only when there are compelling medical or personal reasons.

*See UTS catalog for a detailed grading policy.

NETIQUETTE

When posting online or by email, you need to follow the same ethical standards and laws as you would in face-to-face communications. Your language should be respectful of faculty members and fellow students. Do not post private or confidential information about anyone, and do not provide personal information that could put yourself at risk. The Seminaries LMS has robust security measures to protect communication between teacher and student. Yet please be aware that anything that you post in discussions and groups in which other students participate can be retrieved by others and copied.

Do not download and share course materials without permission of the instructor, as this may violate copyright. UTS reserves the right to delete postings on UTS maintained sites that are considered insensitive, harassing or illegal. Language that is illegal, obscene, defamatory, threatening, infringing of intellectual property rights, invasive of privacy, profane, libelous, threatening, harassing abusive, hateful or embarrassing to any person or entity, or otherwise, is a violation of the Student Code.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism is a form of dishonesty that occurs when a student passes off someone else's work as their own. This can range from failing to cite an author for ideas incorporated into a student's paper, to cutting and pasting paragraphs from different websites, to handing in a paper downloaded from the Internet. It also includes buying or submitting a paper written by a third party. All are considered forms of "plagiarism" and a violation of the Seminary's academic integrity policy. The instructor has the option of having the student repeat or fail the assignment. In cases of serious or repeated violations, the instructor has the option of having the student fail the course or of reporting the student to the Academic Dean for disciplinary action. Possible disciplinary actions include probation, suspension or withdrawal.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Sandel, Michael. *Justice: What Is the Right Thing to Do?* NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-374-53250-5. \$15.00

See also “Harvard University’s Justice with Michael Sandel” <http://www.justiceharvard.org/>

Shafer-Landau, Russ. *The Fundamentals of Ethics 4th edition*. NY: Oxford University Press, 2017. ISBN: 9780190631390. New: \$33.57 (Amazon), Used: \$5 (thriftbooks.com) Other edition is acceptable.

Recommended (not required)

Shafer-Landau, Russ. *The Ethical Life: Fundamental Readings in Ethics and Moral Problems*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2018. Includes excerpts from Aristotle, Mill, Kant, Hobbs, Nozick (*the experience machine*), and others discussed in class.

Other Books:

Fedler, Kyle D. *Exploring Christian Ethics: Biblical Foundations for Morality*. Louisville, Ky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006.

Hollinger, Dennis P. *Choosing the Good: Christian Ethics in a Complex World*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Academic, 2002.

Neusner, Jacob, and Bruce Chilton. *The Ethics of Family Life: What Do We Owe One Another?* Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2001.

Sandel, Michael J. *Justice: A Reader*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007. A collection of primary sources used for cases/issues in his text.

Shafer-Landau, Russ. *The Ethical Life: Fundamental Readings in Ethics and Moral Problems*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2018.

Stivers, Laura A., Christine E. Gudorf, and James B. Martin-Schramm. *Christian Ethics: A Case Method Approach*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2012.

Trull, Joe E., and James E. Carter. *Ministerial Ethics: Moral Formation for Church Leaders*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Academic, 2004.

Wilkins, Steve. *Beyond Bumper Sticker Ethics: An Introduction to Theories of Right and Wrong*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2011.

DVDs:

Achbar, Mark, Jennifer Abbott, and Joel Bakan. *The Corporation*. [New York]: Zeitgeist, 2004. Documentary film.

Alvarez, Kyle Patrick, et al. *The Stanford prison experiment*. 2015.

Cuomo, Chris. *Basic Instincts 5 The Milgram Experiment Re-Visited*. [New York]: ABC News Productions, 2007. Documentary film.

Ferguson, Charles H., et al. *Inside job*. Culver City, Calif: Sony Pictures Home Entertainment, 2011.

Gibney, Alex, et al. *Enron the smartest guys in the room*. Los Angeles, Calif: Magnolia Home Entertainment, 2005. Documentary film.

Kornbluth, Jacob, Jennifer Chaiken, Sebastian Dungan, Robert B. Reich, Svetlana Cvetko, Dan Krauss, Marco D'Ambrosio, and Robert B. Reich. *Inequality for all*. 2014.

Schur, Michael, Brian Ward, Ted Danson, and Kristen Bell. *The Good place. Season one Season one*. 2017.

Online Resources on Debatable Issues:

ProCon.Org. <http://www.procon.org/about-us.php>

International Debate Education Association (IDEA) <http://www2.idebate.org/>

COURSE OUTLINE

The course schedule may change. Additional handouts may be given as part of the required readings.

The chapters refer to the 4th edition of Shafer-Landau; if you use earlier edition, read the chapters of the topic of the week.

- **Watch video-lecture before the zoom meeting for discussion. Weekly lecture-videos will be available on Wed. a week before the zoom meeting.**
- **Zoom meeting for discussion on the listed dates/time. The zoom link is the same for all meetings.**

Dates		Required readings. Bullets are handouts or web sources	Assignments
Feb. 1	1. Introduction: Landscape of Ethics & Course overview	Shafer-Landau, <i>Introduction</i> .	

	Zoom Discussion: 3:30 pm – 4:50 pm		
Feb. 8	2. Good and Evil Zoom Discussion:	Plato, Gyges Ring. <i>Republic</i> II. (2.359a-2.360d) (doc on file) <i>The Third Wave</i> (doc on file) Stanford Prison Experiment (video) https://vimeo.com/383911888/f5df4a922c Milgram Experiment (video) https://vimeo.com/383911879/b6864c3520	
Feb. 15	3. Hedonism Zoom Discussion:	Shafer-Landau Ch. 1. <i>Hedonism</i> ; Ch. 2. <i>Is Happiness All that Matters?</i> <i>Omales</i> (video) https://vimeo.com/383911767/4362e7fa52 <i>Experience Machine</i> (video) https://vimeo.com/383911758/7cf64633ae	
Feb. 22	4. Utilitarianism Zoom Discussion:	Sandel Ch. 2 <i>Greatest Happiness Principle</i> ; Shafer-Landau Ch. 9 <i>Consequentialism: Its Nature and Attractions</i> ; Ch. 10 <i>Consequentialism: Its Difficulties</i>	
Mar. 1	5. Libertarianism Zoom Discussion:	Sandel Ch. 1 Doting the Right Thing; Ch. 3 <i>Do We Own Ourselves?</i> ; Ch. 4 <i>Hired Help</i> . Recommended: <i>Inequality for All</i> (video; trailer only; full document is available on DVD) https://vimeo.com/383849247/520a3ad3f7 <i>Inside Job</i> trailer (video; trailer only; full document is available on DVD) https://vimeo.com/383849228/78833656cd If you are subscribing to Netflix. <i>Saving Capitalism</i> (Netflix only)	
Mar. 8	6. Kantian Ethics Zoom Discussion:	Sandel Ch. 5 <i>What Matters is the Motive</i> ; Shafer-Landau Ch. 11 <i>The Kantian Perspective: Fairness and Justice</i> , Ch. 12 <i>The Kantian Perspective: Autonomy and Respect</i>	
Mar. 15	7. John Rawls & Affirmative Action Zoom Discussion:	Sandel Ch. 6 <i>The Case for Equality</i> , Ch. 7 <i>Arguments for Affirmative Action</i> <i>Harvard Admission</i> (video) https://vimeo.com/383847503/7ef98e59e5	

		<i>Medical School Admission</i> (video) https://vimeo.com/383847485/8a9158a4e0	
Mar. 22	8. Virtue Ethics Zoom Discussion:	Sandel Ch. 8 Who Deserves What?, Ch. 9 <i>What Do We Own One Another?</i> ; Shafer-Landau Ch. 17 <i>Virtue Ethics</i> , Ch. 18 <i>Feminist Ethics</i> .	
Mar. 29	9. Communitarianism Zoom Discussion:	Sandel, Ch. 10 <i>Justice and Common Good</i>	
Apr. 5	10. Social Contract Theory Zoom Discussion:	Shafer-Landau Ch. 13 <i>The Social Contract Tradition: The Theory and Its Attractions</i> , Ch. 14 <i>The Social Contract Tradition: Problems and Prospects</i>	Midterm Take-home Exam due
Apr. 12	No class.	Spring Break	
Apr. 19	11. Divine Command Ethics & Natural Law Theory Zoom Discussion:	Shafer-Landau Ch. 5 <i>Religion and Morality</i> , Ch. 6 <i>Natural Law</i> .	
Apr. 26	12. Relativism & Egoism Zoom Discussion:	Shafer-Landau Ch. 7 <i>Psychological Egoism</i> , Ch. 8 <i>Ethical Egoism</i> , Ch. 19 <i>Ethical Relativism</i> Ayn Rand interview (video) https://vimeo.com/383843035/6264b43890 <i>What is post modernism?</i> (video) https://vimeo.com/383843102/008e79c9a6 Recommended: Lyotard, <i>Postmodern Condition</i> (doc on file)	
May 3	13. Summary		
May 10	14. Students Presentation		
May 17	15. Students Presentation		Term paper. Due Sun. May 22. Upload to "Term Paper"

			folder in Assignments in Pupuli.
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Multimedia resources partially used in class:

Achbar, Mark, Jennifer Abbott, and Joel Bakan. *The Corporation*. [New York]: Zeitgeist, 2004. Documentary film.

Alvarez, Kyle Patrick, et al. *The Stanford prison experiment*. 2015. DVD

Connolly, Peggy. *Ethics in Action: A Case-Based Approach*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.

Cuomo, Chris. *Basic Instincts 5 The Milgram Experiment Re-Visited*. [New York]: ABC News Productions, 2007. Documentary film.

Ferguson, Charles H., et al. *Inside job*. Culver City, Calif: Sony Pictures Home Entertainment, 2011.

Gibney, Alex, et al. *Enron the smartest guys in the room*. Los Angeles, Calif: Magnolia Home Entertainment, 2005. Documentary film.

Philip G. Zimbardo. *The Stanford Prison Experiment*. <http://www.prisonexp.org/>

Books:

Aristotle, and Roger Crisp. *Nicomachean Ethics*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

Ciulla, Joanne B. *The Ethics of Leadership*. South Melbourne, Australia: Thomson/Wadsworth, 2003.

Collier, Paul. *The Bottom Billion Why the Poorest Countries Are Failing and What Can Be Done About It*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Columbia University, and Boston Research Center for the 21st Century. *The United Nations and the World's Religions Prospects for a Global Ethic : Proceedings of a Conference Held October 7, 1994, at Columbia University*. Cambridge, MA: Boston Research Center for the 21st Century, 1995.

Corvino, John, and Maggie Gallagher. *Debating Same-Sex Marriage*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

- Fedler, Kyle D. *Exploring Christian Ethics: Biblical Foundations for Morality*. Louisville, Ky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006.
- Friedman, Thomas L. *The World Is Flat A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006.
- Gore, Albert. *An Inconvenient Truth The Planetary Emergency of Global Warming and What We Can Do About It*. Emmaus, Pa: Rodale Press, 2006.
- Held, Virginia. *The Ethics of Care: Personal, Political, and Global*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.
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- Kant, Immanuel, and H. J. Paton. *Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals*. New York: Harper & Row, 1964.
- Lovin, Robin W. *An Introduction to Christian Ethics Goals, Duties, and Virtues*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2011
- McFaul, Thomas R. *The Future of Peace and Justice in the Global Village: The Role of the World Religions in the Twenty-First Century*. Westport, Conn: Praeger, 2006.
- Milco, Michael R. *Ethical Dilemmas in Church Leadership: Case Studies in Biblical Decision Making*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1997.
- Milgram, Stanley. *Obedience to Authority: An Experimental View*. New York: Harper & Row, 1974.
- Neusner, Jacob, and Bruce Chilton. *The Ethics of Family Life: What Do We Owe One Another?* Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2001.
- Noddings, Nel. *Caring, a Feminine Approach to Ethics & Moral Education*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984.
- Noddings, Nel. *Starting at Home: Caring and Social Policy*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002.
- Pogge, Thomas Winfried Menko, and Darrel Moellendorf. *Global Justice: Seminal Essays*. New York: Paragon House, 2008.
- Pogge, Thomas Winfried Menko, and Keith Horton. *Global Ethics: Seminal Essays*. St. Paul, MN: Paragon House, 2008.

- Rigney, Daniel. *The Matthew Effect: How Advantage Begets Further Advantage*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2010.
- Sachs, Jeffrey. *The End of Poverty Economic Possibilities for Our Time*. New York: Penguin Press, 2005.
- Sandel, Michael J. *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?* New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009.
- Sandel, Michael J. *What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012.
- Sandel, Michael J. *Justice: A Reader*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- Shipler, David K. *The Working Poor: Invisible in America*. New York: Knopf, 2004.
- Singer, Peter. *One World: The Ethics of Globalization*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002.
- Stiglitz, Joseph E. *Globalization and Its Discontents*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2002.
- Stiglitz, Joseph E. *The Price of Inequality: [How Today's Divided Society Endangers Our Future]*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 2012.
- Stivers, Laura A., Christine E. Gudorf, and James B. Martin-Schramm. *Christian Ethics: A Case Method Approach*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2012.
- Taylor, Richard. *Good and Evil*. Amherst, N.Y.: Prometheus Books, 2000.
- Trull, Joe E., and James E. Carter. *Ministerial Ethics: Moral Formation for Church Leaders*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Academic, 2004.
- Zimbardo, Philip G. *The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil*. New York: Random House, 2007.