Course Objectives:
The course will survey the major ethical theories and their application to some contemporary moral issues. These issues will be chosen from the second text listed below.

Texts:
Lawrence Hinman, *Contemporary Moral Issues: Diversity and Consensus*

Course Requirements:
In order to earn a passing grade in this course, you must take a mid-term exam, a final exam, and complete a paper on an assigned topic. The mid-term will be given on October 8 during the regular class time. The final will be given during the regularly assigned time (Tuesday, November 16, 2:45 p.m. for section 1; Wednesday, November 17, 7:45 a.m. for section 2). The assigned topics list will be announced after the class has chosen which contemporary moral issues to investigate. Failure to take the exams or to submit a paper will result in an automatic ‘F’ for the course.

Grade Policy:
The mid-term exam and the final exam are worth 35% each. The paper is worth 20%. Class attendance and participation counts for 10% of the final grade. Each unexcused absence will lower the final grade by 2%.

Class Attendance:
Regular class attendance is expected. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what was discussed and what announcements were made. You are expected to stay for the entire class period unless you have made prior arrangements to leave early. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. At the professor's discretion, in class writing assignments on the assigned readings will be given and these will also affect the participation/attendance grade (in the same way as an unexcused absence). In class writing assignments may be turned in during that class period only.

Reading Sequence:
We will cover chapters 1, 2, 3, 7, 4, 5, and 6 from the moral theory text in that order. In addition, the value theory called Ethical Hedonism will be covered between chapters 4
and chapter 5. A pluralistic approach based on *prima facie* duties will be presented after chapter 7. Readings from the contemporary moral issues book will be determined by the class, except that the first issue covered will be Race and Ethnicity (including affirmative action). The section titled “Introduction to the Moral Issues” in the issues book will always be part of the assigned readings.

*Discussion and Presentation Schedule:*

- **September 8**  Introduction to course, value judgment validation (chapter 1)
- **September 10**  Moral theories (chapter 1)
- **September 13**  Ethical Relativism (chapter 2); last day to add a course
- **September 15**  Religious Moralities (chapter 3)
- **September 17**  Religious Moralities (chapter 3)
- **September 20**  Issue 1 - Race and Ethnicity; presentation by Affirmative Action Officer
- **September 22**  Issue 1 - Race and Ethnicity; read pp. 239-249 in the issues text
- **September 24**  Rights Ethics (chapter 7)
- **September 27**  Ethical Hedonism (chapter 5); last day to drop with no grade
- **September 29**  Ethical Hedonism (chapter 5)
- **October 1**  Psychological Egoism (chapter 4)
- **October 4**  Ethical Egoism (chapter 4)
- **October 6**  Ethical Egoism (chapter 4)
- **October 8**  Mid term exam
- **October 11**  Issue 2
- **October 13**  Issue 2
- **October 15**  Utilitarianism (chapter 5); last day to drop with a ‘W’
- **October 18**  Utilitarianism (chapter 5)
- **October 20**  Ethics of Duty (chapter 6)
- **October 22**  Ethics of Duty (chapter 6)
- **October 25**  Issue 3
- **October 27**  Issue 3
- **October 29**  *Prima Facie* Duties; paper due
- **November 1**  Issue 4; course evaluations
- **November 3**  Issue 4
- **November 5**  Issue 5
- **November 8**  Issue 5
- **November 10**  Issue 6
- **November 12**  Issue 6

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