Fall 2011 Ethical Theory/Moral Problems

Fisher 0127
M/W/F 905-955am

Instructor: Syd Johnson
Office: Walker 331
email: Isjohnso@mtu.edu
Office hours: Tues 1-2pm; Wed 9-10am, or by appointment

Course Description
In this course we will reflect on current ethical problems through critical reading and discussion of classic and contemporary texts.

Required texts
LaFollette, Ethics in Practice 3e

Additional Reading
Additional reading assignments are posted on Blackboard. Study guides and lecture outlines will be posted for some class sessions on BlackBoard. They will not be handed out in class. Study guides should be read along with your reading of the assigned texts. Lecture outlines provide you with a general view of the topics to be discussed in class. They are not a substitute for class attendance.

Course Requirements
Reading assignments: Assigned readings should be completed before class.

Papers: There will be 2 short papers, approximately 3-4 pages long. (20% of grade each)

Class discussion: All students are encouraged and expected to participate in class discussions, to ask questions, and to bring their personal insights to the discourse. Lively, civil conversation and debate have a long, important and colorful history in philosophy, and plays a crucial role in the development and refinement of philosophical thinking. (5% of grade)

Grading
Grading is not based on a curve. Your final grade will be determined by the following:
1) Mid-term exam (25% of grade)
2) Final exam (30% of grade)
3) 2 Short papers (20% of grade each)
4) Class participation (5 points; 5% of grade)
Tech's grading standard will be used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade points/credit</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% - 100%</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>88% - 92%</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82% - 86%</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>76% - 81%</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>Above average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70% - 75%</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD</td>
<td>65% - 69%</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>Below average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60% - 64%</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Inferior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete; given only when a student is unable to complete a segment of the course because of circumstances beyond the student's control. A grade of incomplete may be given only when approved in writing by the department chair or school dean.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Conditional, with no grade points per credit; given only when the student is at fault in failing to complete a minor segment of a course, but in the judgment of the instructor does not need to repeat the course. It must be made up within the next semester in residence or the grade becomes a failure (F). A (X) grade is computed into the grade point average as a (F) grade.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Policies

Class Attendance
You are expected to attend all class sessions, and to arrive on time. Excessive unexcused absence from class, or frequent late arrival to class can result in a reduction of your final grade.

Late papers
Papers are due via email no later than 5pm on the assigned date. Papers turned in after 5pm or after the due date will be penalized one full letter grade for every day that they are late, including weekend days. If you know that your paper is going to be late, you must contact me immediately via email.

Missed exams
There will be no makeup exams, unless there is a valid, excused absence. If you know that you have a scheduling conflict with an exam, you must notify me in advance. Students with University-approved excused absences must provide written documentation from the appropriate department or division in order to be excused from exams. Excused absences are limited to: medical reasons or emergencies, sanctioned curricular or co-curricular activities, military duties, or religious observance. Student athletes others engaged in scheduled activities that conflict with exams must provide written documentation in advance of exams in order to be permitted a makeup exam.

Disabilities
Students with documented physical, learning, or other disabilities are entitled to receive reasonable accommodations. An individual with a disability will be expected to meet the course or program standards whether or not an accommodation is needed. An individual with a disability who is capable of meeting these standards in a different way than is customary will be provided with a reasonable accommodation to enable the individual to do so.

Academic misconduct
Plagiarism: Knowingly copying another's work or ideas and calling them one's own or not giving proper credit or citation. This includes but is not limited to reading or hearing another's work or ideas and using
them as one's own; quoting, paraphrasing, or condensing another's work without giving proper credit; purchasing or receiving another's work and using, handling, or submitting it as one's own work.

Cheating: Intentional, unauthorized use of any study aids, equipment, or another's work during an academic exercise. This includes but is not limited to unauthorized use of notes, study aids, electronic or other equipment during an examination; copying or looking at another individual's examination; taking or passing information to another individual during an examination; taking an examination for another individual; allowing another individual to take one's examination; stealing examinations. Cheating also includes unauthorized collaboration. All graded academic exercises are expected to be performed on an individual basis unless otherwise stated by the instructor. An academic exercise may not be submitted by a student for course credit in more than one course without the permission of all instructors.

Fabrication: Intentional and/or unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation during an academic exercise. This includes but is not limited to changing or adding an answer on an examination and resubmitting it to change the grade; inventing data for a laboratory exercise or report.

Facilitating Academic Misconduct: Knowingly or recklessly allowing or helping another individual to plagiarize, cheat, or fabricate information.

Students are advised to refer to university policy regarding academic misconduct and disciplinary procedures.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments:
BB: Blackboard
EIP: Ethics in Practice

Aug 29: Introduction
Sep 5: Labor Day, no classes
Sep 7-9: BB: Mill: Utilitarianism, ch 1-4
(9/7 Last day to drop/add with refund)
Sep 12-16: EIP: 22-30
Sep 19-23: EIP: 31-44
Sep 21: Papers due 5pm
Sep 26-30: EIP 45-55

Oct 3: Midterm Exam, in class
Oct 5-7: EIP: Free Speech 373-420
Oct 10-14: EIP: Punishment 510-543
Oct 17-21: BB: Knobe & Fraser; EIP 544-561
Oct 24-28: EIP Euthanasia: 62-113
Oct 31-Nov 4: EIP Reproductive Tech 218-274
Nov 7-11: EIP: Abortion 114-167
Nov 9: Papers due 5pm
Nov 14-18: EIP: Animals 171-211

Nov 21-25: Thanksgiving Recess
Nov 28-Dec 2: EIP: World Hunger 613-659
Dec 5-9: EIP: War and Terrorism 704-745
Dec 14: FINAL EXAM 8-10am