INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
Morals and Society
Phil.101 E

“This course fulfills a humanities requirement AND the HCC E focus requirement for the AA degree as well as a humanities diversification requirement for UHM. Students transferring to UHM will be required to take an additional 300 or 400-level E-focus course in their major to fulfill graduation requirements.

Instructor: Chris Ann Moore
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Telephone: Appointments can be made through email

TEXTBOOK
Chris Ann Moore, In Pursuit of Happiness: An Introduction to Ethics (2004) and

PREREQUISITES
Basic word-processing skills are essential. English 22 is recommended but not required

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Philosophy 101 is a study of and deliberation on contemporary ethical issues through the perspective of classical and contemporary philosophical theories.

We will conduct an in depth examination of contemporary ethical issues such as starvation, torture, abortion, euthanasia, homosexuality, war, and the application of both our personal ethical values and philosophical moral theories to these issues.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
After successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

Demonstrate competency in ethical deliberation and the use of discipline-based tools to arrive at rational ethical judgments by applying the methods of various philosophical ethical theories and their own moral theory to deliberation on a variety of moral dilemmas and ethical controversies.
Define and describe the elements of major ethical theories.

Demonstrate knowledge of the reasoning used to support these theories as well as the flaws inherent in each theory.

Articulate their own personal moral theory and the reasoning they used to develop and support that theory.

Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the diversity of moral reasoning through the above applications, assessments and analyses as well as through respectful participation in class discussions and deliberations.

**MAJOR COURSE CONTENT**

**Moral Theories Covered or Developed:**
- Cultural Relativism
- Natural Law Theory
- Kantian Ethics
- Rule Utilitarianism
- Existentialism
- Your Moral Theory

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- **Readings:** Textbook Chapters, Power Points and Case Studies
- **6 Homework Assignments**
- **Midterm Exam** (Applying Cultural Relativism and Natural Law Theory)
- **Final Exam** (Applying Kantian Ethics, Rule Utilitarianism, Existentialism and Your Moral Theory)
- **Class Attendance and Participation**

- **Readings:** You will be required to carefully and critically read the assigned chapters from the text and to review the Power points for that chapter. Your Curriculum specifies which chapters are assigned each day.

- **Homework Assignments:** You will be given 6 homework assignments on the various major moral theories you will learn: Cultural Relativism, Natural Law Theory, Kantian Ethics, Rule Utilitarianism, Existentialism and your own developing moral theory. You will be asked to outline the elements of a moral theory (the definition of the good, the reason to be good, the rationale supporting the theory) and to apply the method of that theory to a moral dilemma or ethical controversy. All homework will be collaboratively corrected on the date it is due. You are responsible for correcting your own work. I will not collect assignments but each will be graded for completion on the date it is due.

- **Midterm and Final Exams:** You will be given a case study involving an ethical dilemma. You will be asked to determine the morality of the action in question utilizing the moral theories you have learned. The Midterm Exam will cover Cultural Relativism and Natural
Law Theory. The Final Exam will cover Kantian Ethics, Rule Utilitarianism, Existentialism, and Your Moral Theory.

- **Class Attendance and Participation:** Class attendance is required and excuses for missing class are not accepted. It is assumed that if you miss a class you have a good reason. However, consistent absence will severely affect your grade. Students are expected to be on time. If you are late, come to class, but consistent lateness is disruptive and disrespectful and will negatively impact your grade. Class discussion is an essential part of this course. In fact almost half of this course is devoted to discussion. Through these discussions, which will largely be based on your homework and exams, you will develop and learn to communicate your ideas. You will also teach and learn from one another. You will find that the discussion sections are often the most inspiring part of the course. Ethical deliberation requires interaction; a willingness to communicate our own most deeply held beliefs, to listen to the ideas of others, to respectfully challenge those ideas we disagree with, to test those we do agree with, and to reformulate our own beliefs when there is good reason to do so. Ethical deliberation requires the openness to teach without preaching. It requires the openness to be taught. Through our interactions we will be functioning as a community: teaching and learning together. This is how real learning and understanding are acquired. This is the path to wisdom. Attendance and thoughtful participation will account for a significant part of your final grade, as explained in class.

**COURSE POLICIES**

- Your Curriculum specifies the dates on which HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS are due. Your Homework Assignments will be posted on your class Laulima website and an email notification will be sent to your hawaii.edu email account.

- Download the assignment and type your answer below each question asked.

- **ALL ASSIGNMENTS** must be typewritten; double spaced, with 12 pt. type and 1-inch margins, and must meet all requirements of college level writing. Slang is unacceptable. Assignment pages must be STAPLED. Leave plenty of space for additions, corrections and revisions.

- Late Homework Assignments will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero. A missed Midterm Exam may be made up at the end of the semester, ONLY if all assignments have been turned in on time and class attendance and participation has been excellent. A missed Final Exam will result in an Incomplete in the course, and arrangements must be made with the instructor for completing the course the following semester.

- **Extra Credit Option:** One missed Homework Assignment may be made up OR 5 pts. extra credit earned by successfully completing the extra credit question on the Final Exam (applying Natural Law Theory to the case in question.)
• **If You Miss a Class:** You should check your curriculum to see which philosophers we are covering that day and when your assignment is due. You should read the chapters and accompanying Power Points on those philosophers and get notes from a classmate in your group. After studying the chapter and your notes, if you have any questions, see me during office hours or make an appointment. I would be happy to help. Complete and promptly turn in any assignment that is due. See above instructions in **bold** if you have failed to turn in an assignment that is due. Otherwise, there is no need to contact me. Again, it is assumed that if you miss a class you have a good reason. However, if you are absent often, you should consider withdrawing from class.

• **Courtesy:** We are all here to learn together and to aid one another in that learning process. We will be discussing very sensitive issues. This is not a debate class and the point is not to win an argument. The point is to communicate consciously and clearly, to present reasoned arguments for our own point of view, to question yourself and others, and to learn by becoming aware of other's viewpoints. Much of what you will learn in this class will come from your fellow classmates; from the classmate who expressed what you were trying to say, from the classmate who expressed an idea you had never thought to think and from the classmate who helps you to understand, if not agree with, an opposing view. Please remember that you do not know what your classmates have been through. You have not walked in their shoes, so be careful and considerate in your comments. I respect free speech but it is my responsibility to maintain an atmosphere of respect.

• **Individual Instruction:** You are welcome and **encouraged** to stop by my office, to email me or to phone me. I enjoy interacting with students and it is part of my job! My office hours are posted on my door and my door is always open if I am here. I will be happy to make an appointment with you for another time if you are unable to see me during my normal office hours. I may not be available during weekends.

• **Plagiarism Policy:** You are expected to submit your own work. Although you are welcomed and encouraged to freely use class notes, when you use **any part** of anyone else’s writing, in your papers or assignments you must put those writings in quotation marks and you must use footnotes and a bibliography to attribute that writing to its true author. **A failure to do so is plagiarism.** When you use some one else's original ideas, even if you do not quote them word for word, you must attribute that idea to them by name and footnote your reference. **A failure to do so is plagiarism.** Any plagiarism at all on any assignment will result in a 0 for that assignment. Any further plagiarism will result in failure of and dismissal from the class. If you are in doubt about whether a source should be sited it always better to site a source than to fail to do so. Of course you can always ask me for assistance. I also strongly encourage you to consult our fabulous Liberians or to the wonderful tutors at the Writing Center!

• **Cell Phones and Computers:** Your cell phones **MUST** be turned off before entering class unless I have given you specific permission, which I will do only in emergency situations. Computers are not allowed in class.
GRADING

• Homework Assignments 20%
• Midterm Exam 30%
• Final Exam 50%
• Class Attendance and Participation (as discussed in class)

90-100%   A
80-89%     B
70-79%     C
60-69%     D
Below 59%  F
— N and Inc. grades are only given in special circumstances and only after a conference with the instructor.

Students in this class who need accommodations for a disability should submit documentation and requests to the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (SSD) in Bldg. 2, Rm. 108A. Phone: 845-9282 voice/text or 9272 voice/text for more information. If you have already registered your requests with SSD this semester, please contact me and be prepared to provide a current verification letter from SSD. (Rev. 3-29-2004). I will be happy to help in any way I can!!