Syllabus (tentative), Philosophy 112: History of Ethics, CSU-Sacramento, Fall 2014
Section 02 (catalog # 86923; MWF 8-8:50am, Douglas Hall 110)

Instructor: Russell DiSilvestro. Contact via Blackboard Messages (not normal email or Blackboard email) or come to regular office hours in Mendocino Hall 3030 Mon/Wed between 10-11am. I will respond to emails on weekdays between 9am-5pm; messages sent other times should receive a reply by the next business day.

Catalogue Description: “Investigation of the main approaches to ethics in Western moral philosophy. Emphasis on Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant and Mill.”


Technology Requirements: Students must have a reliable way of accessing BlackBoard. Our classes may be audio/video-recorded by the instructor or students for later viewing/listening on Blackboard. Students have the option not to be recorded, without academic penalty, but must let the instructor know this.

Learning Objectives: By the end of the course, the student should have the ability to

✓ Develop competence in philosophical language and literature on the history and transformations of ethical theories.
   
   Practical Goals associated with this objective:
   • Accurately describe and distinguish a variety of concepts, theories, and positions in the history of ethics;
   • Express one's own ethical judgments in a cogent and clear fashion;
   • Engage in respectful discussion of difficult and sometimes controversial ethical issues;
   • Analyze specific ethical arguments for consistency and credibility (including one's own).

✓ Develop written and oral communication skills as those are associated with argumentative writing and public speaking.
   
   Practical Goals associated with this objective:
   • Write competently in concise, precise and well-developed logical style;
   • Express of a point of view through the formulation of a coherent and consistent argument;
   • Present an exposition of text in a coherent manner to an audience of peers.

✓ Meet the learning objectives associated with all General Education area C2 (Humanities) courses at CSUS:
   • Demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods of the study of the humanities.
   • Investigate, describe, and analyze the roles and effects of human culture and understanding in the development of human societies.
   • Compare and analyze various conceptions of humankind.
   • Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the historical development of cultures and civilizations, including their animating ideas and values.

Special Needs: Tell me early if you have a disability requiring accommodation (documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, 916-278-6955) or if you need to miss something to participate in officially recognized student activities.

Academic Honesty: Know the policy http://www.csus.edu/umanual/AcademicHonestyPolicyandProcedures.htm

Policy Regarding Exceptions: Late work will only be accepted, and missed classes, papers, or exams will only be excused, if there is a legitimate serious excuse (for example, illness) documented as soon as it is possible to do so.

Grading: Definition of Grade Symbols: http://catalog.csus.edu/12-14/first%20100%20pages/academicpolicies.html
Your final grade is determined by how many points you earn out of 100, with these grade floors: 93=A, 90=A-, 87=B+, 83=B, 80=B-, 77=C+, 73=C, 70=C-, 67=D+, 63=D, 60=D-. Your total points are calculated by adding 3 differently weighted categories:
• Participation (20%): At the start of each class I will collect hand-written answers to the Study Questions posted online for the readings assigned for that class. Answers will be graded as check (15)/check-plus (20)/check-minus (10), depending on their thoroughness and accuracy. (But you don't need to write answers to questions labeled “To Think About”)
• Assessments (30%): one midterm (15%); one final (15%). Online, multiple-choice, timed. Due dates on schedule.
• Assignments (50%): Four philosophical analyses (5-7 pages each) must be written on selected assigned readings (you select two; I select two). Each philosophical analysis is worth more than the last (5%, 10%, 15%, 20%), and should be written as follows: http://www.csus.edu/phil/Guidance/How%20to%20Write%20an%20Analysis.htm. General writing standards are online at the CSUS Philosophy Department webpage: http://www.csus.edu/phil. Due dates on schedule.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Read/complete before stated class (or Sunday midnight)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>(ring of Gyges, ideal city/person)</td>
<td><em>Plato, Republic</em> chapters 1, 2, &amp; 4 <a href="http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.html">http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.html</a> Study Questions due 9-15</td>
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<td><strong>Philosophical Analysis #1 (on <em>Crito</em>) due Sunday 9-21</strong></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>M 9-29, W 10-1, F 10-3</td>
<td>Aristotle, continued</td>
<td><em>SE Part 2: The Medieval World</em> Study Questions due 9-29</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>M 10-13, W 10-15, F 10-17</td>
<td>David Hume, continued</td>
<td>Hume, <em>An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals</em>, chapters 4 through 9 Study Questions due 10-13</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>(sentimentalism, character)</td>
<td><strong>Philosophical Analysis #2 (on author selected by student) due Sunday 10-19</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Reading/Assignment</td>
<td>Study Questions Due</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>M 10-27, W 10-29, F 10-31</td>
<td>Immanuel Kant, continued (good will, categorical imperative)</td>
<td>Kant, <em>Groundwork</em>, chapters 2 and 3</td>
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<td><strong>M 11-3</strong>, W 11-5, F 11-7</td>
<td>John Stuart Mill (vs. Hegel/Marx, <em>Utilitarianism</em>)</td>
<td><em>SE Part 4: The Late Modern World</em></td>
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**Philosophical Analysis #3 (on author selected by student) due Sunday 11-16**

**SE Part 5.1: The Postmodern World/G.E. Moore**
Study Questions due 11-17

**SE Part 5.2, “A. J. Ayer”**
Study Questions due 11-19

**SE Part 5.3, “Jean-Paul Sartre”**
Study Questions due 11-21

**SE Part 5.4, “Elizabeth Anscombe”**
Study Questions due 11-24

**SE Part 5.6, “R. M. Hare”**
Study Questions due 11-26

**SE Part 5.5, “John Rawls”**
Study Questions due 12-1

**SE Part 5.8, “Carol Gilligan”**
Study Questions due 12-3

**Philosophical Analysis #4 (on author selected by instructor) due Sunday 12-14**

**SE Part 5.7, “Alisdair MacIntyre”**
Study Questions due 12-10

**SE Part 5.9, “Richard Rorty”**
Study Questions due 12-12

**SE Part 5.10, “Conclusion”**
Study Questions due 12-12

Final Exam due by 10 AM on Monday Dec 15