

HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BRANDON CAMPUS
FALL SEMESTER 2009

Instructor: Steve Wall
Room Number: BACA 208
E-mail: swall@hccfl.edu
Office Room Number: PADM 147
Office Hours: M-TH, 8:00-9:30; MW, 12:15-1:00; TTH, 10:45-1:00; Brandon W, 5:45-6:00; Brandon TH, 5:45-6:00

Course: PHI 1600H-93688
Days and Times: TH 3:00-5:45
Phone: 757-2139

Students must be enrolled in the Honors Program to take this class.

Course Description:

PHI 1600 covers several major ethical theories in philosophy and their applications, including contemporary issues.

Course Objectives:

Students should demonstrate the ability to

1. place ethical beliefs in context
2. think critically about ethical theories and issues
3. discuss these theories and issues in an open forum

Textbook:

Christina Hoff Sommers, Vice and Virtue in Everyday Life, Eighth Edition, 2007

Grading:

Two exams, which will consist of both objective questions answered on a scantron sheet and more subjective essay responses, will account for 70% of the final grade. There is also one 3-5 page discussion paper (MLA citation) that addresses the argument in the reading you selected that accounts for 10%, and a presentation based on your paper accounts for 10%. Attendance and participation account for the remaining 10%.

Grade Schedule:

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|--------|---|
| 90-100 | A |
| 80-89 | B |
| 70-79 | C |
| 60-69 | D |
| 59-0 | F |

Academic Dishonesty: Students must do their own work. Plagiarism is a serious offense.

Accommodation: If anyone requires assistance or accommodations to participate in the class, please contact the Office of Services to Students with Disabilities.

8/27/09: Introduction to the course Fallacies and Reasoning **Chapter I—Good and Evil**
Jonathan Bennett, The Conscience of Huckleberry Finn, 15; Philip Hallie, The Evil That Men Think—And Do, 25; Anne Applebaum, Strategies for Survival, 39

9/3/09: Stanley Milgram, The Perils of Obedience, 46; Josiah Royce, The Moral Insight, 56; Herman Melville, Billy Budd, 59; Friedrich Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil, 67
Chapter 2—Is It All Relative? Herodotus, Morality As Custom, 78

10: Ruth Benedict, A Defense of Moral Relativism; 79; William Graham Sumner, A Defense of Cultural Relativism, 85; Louis Pojman, Who's to Judge? , 103; Thomas Nagel, The Objective Basis of Morality, 113; R.M. McIver, The Deep Beauty of the Golden Rule, 117

17: Martin Luther King, I Have a Dream, 121; **Chapter 3—Morality and Self-Interest**
Plato, The Ring of Gyges, 132; Thomas Hobbes, Of the State of Men without Civil Society, 135; David Hume, Of Self-Love, 141; James Rachels, Egoism and Moral Skepticism, 151; Ayn Rand, The Virtue of Selfishness, 160

24: Louis Pojman, Egoism, Self-Interest, and Altruism, 163; Colin McGinn, Why Not Be A Bad Person? , 167; **Chapter 4—Moral Doctrines and Moral Theories**
The Judeo-Christian Tradition, 184; Robert C. Mortimer, Morality Is Based on God's Commands, 196; John Arthur, Why Morality Does Not Depend on Religion, 200; John Stuart Mill, Utilitarianism, 211

10/1/09: Bernard Williams, A Critique of Utilitarianism, 216; Robert Nozick, The Experience Machine, 222; Immanuel Kant, Good Will, Duty, and the Categorical Imperative, 230; Richard Taylor, A Critique of Kantianism, 244; Hand out study guide

8: Review **Chapter 5—Virtue** Aristotle, Happiness and the Virtues, 252;
Saint Augustine, Virtue and the Human Soul, 264; Epictetus, The Art of Living, 267

15: **First Exam** Bernard Mayo, Virtue or Duty? , 282; Adam Smith, Of Justice and Beneficence, 309

22: Charles Darwin, The Origin of the Moral Sense, 316; **Chapter 6—Vice** Plutarch, Vice, 331; Saint Augustine, The Depths of Vice, 333; Select Reading for Paper and Presentation

29: Dante Alighieri, The Hypocrites, 339; Immanuel Kant, Jealousy, Envy, and Spite, 351; Thesis Statement and Outline for Paper

11/5/09: **Chapter 8—The Meaning of Life**
T'ao Ch'ien, Substance, Shadow, and Spirit, 470; The Bhagavad Gita, 472; Eastern Ethics: Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism; Draft of Paper and Discussion

12: Video “Spring, Summer, Fall Winter, . . . Spring” and Discussion; Leo Tolstoy, My Confession, 481; Bertrand Russell, A Free Man’s Worship, 489

19: Albert Camus, The Myth of Sisyphus, 495; Thomas Nagel, The Meaning of Life, 499; Jean-Paul Sartre, Existentialism is Humanism; Joel Feinberg, Absurd Self-Fulfillment, 509; Victor Frankl, The Human Search for Meaning, 512; Final Questions on Paper

26: Thanksgiving

12/3/09: Presentations and Review Papers due

10: Final Exam