

California Lutheran University

Bachelor's Degree for Professionals

California Lutheran University Fall 2016

Social Ethics - Philosophy 315

August 29 – November 14, 2016

Important Dates

Sept 12 Last day to add; last day to drop (without a “W” or financial penalty)

Oct 10 Last day to withdraw without academic penalty

Wednesday, Main Campus SW 118 6-9:30 pm

Doug Thiel

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Course Description: We will examine moral theories in philosophy with a view towards practical applications inherent in social settings. We will work to develop the skills necessary to engage in informed evaluations of moral issues. This means going beyond merely accumulating *moral facts* to a consideration of what ought to count as the moral foundations for one's intuitions in this area of the human experience.

Course Textbook: Social and Personal Ethics, 8th ed. edited by William H. Shaw. Wadsworth ISBN 978-1-133-93473-8 Students: Please note that the 8th ed is required by the Educational Code for me to use...I cannot use earlier editions. And earlier editions do not have the essays we will need. This 8th edition has been out for at least one semester, you may be able to find a used book to save some money.

Prerequisites: N/A.

Learning Objectives/Course Goals:

- The student will be able to articulate the differences between basic moral theories. These will include, moral egoism, cultural relativism, divine command theory, utilitarianism, deontology and virtue ethics.

- The student will understand and practice the writing of a "position paper" which will contain the following elements: thesis, thesis defense correlated with course materials and a rebuttal criterion.
- The student will enhance their confidence in oral communication through group discussions, individual presentations and other forms of class participation.

These educational objectives address the following CLU Student Learning Outcomes:

Professional Preparation

- a. Field Specific Knowledge and Experience
- b. Ethical and Professional Judgment
- c. Interpersonal and Teamwork Skills

Liberal Learning

- a. Written Communication Skills
- b. Oral Communication Skills
- c. Information Literacy
- d. Understanding of Cultural and Global Diversity

Character and Leadership Development

- a. Appreciation of diversity
- b. Growth in identity and values
- c. Principled leadership

Learning Activities: I strongly support adult learning strategies. In a nutshell, the least effective way to educate adults is through the "talking head" lecture mode. While it is necessary for an instructor to provide explanations, the most effective adult learning environments include break-out group (peer) discussions, presentations by members of the class, class discussion and multi-media approaches (which for this class will include videos that illustrate the various moral dilemmas under consideration).

Grading:

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 Quizzes (5 points each), 2 Discussion Boards (5 points total), class participation (5 points) | 20 percent of course grade |
| Mid-term essay | 40 percent of course grade |
| Final paper | 40 percent of course grade |

The percentages you obtain will then translate into a letter grade, using the following rubric:

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 95%-100%: A | 77%-78%: C+ |
|-------------|-------------|

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 90%-94%: A- | 71%-76%: C |
| 86%-89%: B+ | 69%-70%: C- |
| 82%-85%: B | 65%-68%: D |
| 80%-82%: B- | <65%: F |

Number of Hours Outside of Class: This generally results in students working 2 hours for each 1 hour of actual classroom attendance. His course is required to have a minimum number of instructor led hours and a minimum number of homework hours to ensure accreditation. Below is the formula we will follow for this course

| ACTIVITY | Instructor led hours | | Homework Hours | | Remarks |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| | WEEKLY | COURSE | WEEKLY | COURSE | |
| Class Meetings | 3 hr 20 mins | 36 hrs 40 mins | | | |
| Discussion Boards | | 4 hrs | | 10 hrs | varies by student instructor led feedback online |
| Essay Reading Assignments | | | 6 hrs | 66 hrs | Average over 11 weeks |
| Online Quizzes | | 2 hrs | | 10 hrs | varies by student instructor led feedback online |
| Mid-term Essay Exam | | 4 hrs | | 10 hrs | varies by student instructor led feedback online |
| Final Term paper preparation | | 4 hrs | | 24 hrs | Instructor led feedback online |

| | | | | | |
|--------------|--|---------------|--|----------------|--|
| Total | | 50 hrs | | 120 hrs | |
| | | 40 mins | | | |

Note: The above hours will be built into the Schedule of Classes (below)

Attendance/Make-up and Late Policy: As indicated above attendance/class participation is part of your course grade. If you are going to miss a class you must provide advance notification with the reason. In such cases, I will provide you with a make-up assignment. Obviously, if you have a last minute emergency you may not be able to notify me prior to class, but do so as soon as practical. If the make-up assignment is completed you will not lose points, however, missing class sessions will impact your ability to do well on the mid-term essay exam and final paper. Later mid-term exams and final papers will not be accepted.

Other Considerations: A course in social ethics is a course in philosophy. Philosophy is not a particular religion nor is it a science course. Our evaluations will center on the use of "reason". This course is not a course designed to challenge anyone's preconceived moral paradigms. However, in order to be objective, it is important to "bracket-out" preconceived solutions to the social issues we will discuss. Give them a "fresh" objective reading. This is easier said than done. In philosophy we deal with developing and refining the appropriate questions that arise. This does not mean that philosophy does not seek "answers"...it means that philosophy does not seek superficial answers. And the rationales employed in philosophy should appeal to both the believer and non-believer alike. This means that philosophy attempts to use "reason" and "logic" that is neutral with regards to a particular orientation. I will cover this in the first night of class. At all times, I will expect that student treat each other with dignity and respect. This should be a class that you look forward to attending.

Disclaimer:

This syllabus may change from time to time to accommodate changing circumstances. Every effort will be made to alert students to changes that occur in a timely manner. The class schedule is presented below. While the material will be covered in the order presented in the schedule, the actual timing may change from week to week as the course progresses.

Schedule of Classes

Aug 31 -. First night of class. Because Prior to class read pages 37-59. We will go over the moral theories we will be using this semester to address issues in Social Ethics. **This is a very important class to attend.**

The reading assignment for next week is the essay by James Rachels *The Challenge of Cultural Relativism*, p. 31

Sept 6 –Due to an overseas trip for my daughter’s wedding, I will not be in the country. I will have an online quiz and instructor video to replace this class which I will announce on August 31. I will also send out group email regarding reading assignments for next week.. I will assign different groups of students different essays from the text on the issue of abortion. This will be the basis for our Sept 13 class.

Note: During this week (between class meetings you will have a Discussion Board class activity that will be posted in your course shell)

Sept 13 - Based on the Discussion Board posting, we will have a class discussion and go over some of those posts. BRING A COPY OF YOUR POSTING. We will then go over the Abortion essays that were assigned to different groups of students. As your instructor, I will facilitate this process. The topic for next week will be "Animal and Environmental Ethics." I will give you specific reading assignments.

Sept 20—We will discuss the issue of Animal Rights based on the assigned readings. We will also discuss the mid-term exam.

Sept 27 Mid-Term exam. The reading assignments for next week will be assigned to you in group assignments that I will send out to you in group email from Section 8 on "Marriage and Sexual Morality

Oct 5 I will go over the mid-term and I will talk about Student Presentations for Extra Credit. We will have group discussions on Section 8. For next week read the essay "Just War Theory", p, 341

You will be provided an additional link on Just War Theory during this week. You will have a Discussion Board Posting due. For directions and due dates, go to the content section of this course shell.

Oct 12- We will discuss Just War Theory and have Quiz 2. We will also go over strategies for completing your final term paper. The list of students giving extra credit presentations on Oct 26 will be finalized. For next week read the four essays in Section 11

Oct 19 – We will have a round-table discussion on Capital Punishment

Oct 26 - Student Presentations for Extra Credit

Note: During this week (between class meetings) you will need to submit the first page of your term paper to turnitin.com in your course shell. I will provide each of you feedback. Bring a hard copy to class on Nov 2

Nov 2 We will go over the first page of your final paper

Nov 9 Final papers due. They will be submitted to turnitin.com

I will post grades within the guidelines of CLU for student viewing within the allotted time period.

Course Evaluations Statement:

All course evaluations are conducted online. Your feedback is important to us. You will receive an email message reminding you when the website is open for your feedback. The link is:
<http://courseval.callutheran.edu>

Disability Statement:

California Lutheran University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations in compliance with ADA of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to students with documented disabilities. If you are a student requesting accommodations for this course, please contact your professor at the beginning of the semester and register with the Disability Support Services Coordinator, Wendy Jimenez, for the facilitation and verification of need. The Disability Support Services Coordinator is located in the Center for Student Success Office at 3259 Pioneer Street, and can be contacted by calling 805.493.3878 or emailing wjimene@callutheran.edu

Statement on Academic Honesty:

The educational programs of California Lutheran University are designed and dedicated to achieve academic excellence, honesty and integrity at every level of student life. Part of CLU's dedication to academic excellence is our commitment to academic honesty. Students, faculty, staff and administration share the responsibility for maintaining high levels of scholarship on campus. Any behavior or act which might be defined as "deceitful" or "dishonest" will meet with appropriate disciplinary sanctions, including dismissal from the University, suspension, grade F in a course or various forms of academic probation. Policies and procedures regarding academic honesty are contained in the faculty and student handbooks.

Plagiarism, cheating, unethical computer use and facilitation of academic dishonest are examples of behavior which will result in disciplinary sanctions. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

- word for word copying without using quotation marks or presenting the work as yours
- using the ideas or work of others without acknowledgement
- not citing quoted material. Students must cite sources for any information that is not either the result of original research or common knowledge.

Standards of Student Conduct Statements:

- [Student Life Handbook](#)
- [Academic Honesty Statement](#)

University Harassment Policy

Be civil to each other, both on- and offline. For information on the University's **student harassment policy and rights, please go to the following link:**

[Student Life Handbook](#)

Sexual Misconduct

California Lutheran University does not tolerate any degree of sexual misconduct on or off-campus. We encourage you to report if you know of, or have been the victim of, sexual harassment, misconduct, and/or assault. If you report this to a faculty member, she or he must notify Cal Lutheran's Title IX

Coordinator about the basic facts of the incident. More information about your options for reporting can be found at: <http://www.callutheran.edu/title-ix/>

Pearson Library

Pearson Library provides access to scholarly books, journals, ebooks, and databases of full text articles from scholarly journals. To begin using these materials, visit the library web page <http://www.callutheran.edu/library>

There are many ways to contact Pearson Library for research assistance, no matter where you are!

- Email Yvonne Wilber (Professionals liaison) at ywilber@callutheran.edu
- General Library email: CLUlibrary@callutheran.edu
- Library main phone: 805.493.3250
- Text us your question: 805.493.3867
- Get more help at: <http://www.callutheran.edu/library/help/>

CLU Writing Center

The Writing Center provides 1:1 writing consultations, in-person and online, with trained undergraduate and graduate writing consultants. We welcome all writing-related projects at any stage of the writing process across the diverse disciplines of study at Cal Lutheran. The Writing Center also hosts writing workshops, provides in-class visits, facilitates writing groups, and offers a writer's studio option for longer, sustained projects. Services suit writers of all levels, including traditional undergraduates, graduate students from all fields, all English language learners, and accomplished scholars alike. All members of the Cal Lutheran community with an @callutheran.edu email address are welcome to make use of our services. For more information, please visit at www.callutheran.edu/writing_center or call 805.493.3257. Please schedule appointments online through MyCLU Blackboard with the yellow "The Writing Center" icon in "Tools," or stop by The Writing Center itself, located in the Darling Collaboration Suite of Pearson Library.

Veterans Resources

If you are a veteran, military member, or a family member of a veteran or military member, please refer to Cal Lutheran's Veterans Resources webpage for important information: <http://www.callutheran.edu/veterans/> Also, if you are a veteran receiving benefits and you are struggling in a class, you most likely qualify for free tutoring. Please contact the Veterans Coordinator, Jenn Zimmerman, veterans@callutheran.edu or 805.493.3648, for more information.

Help Desk

Students may contact the Help Desk about telephone, network, wireless network, software questions password problems, hardware problems, and general consultation (i.e. you cannot log into your MyCLU portal, or you are having problems with Blackboard). Please click on the following link for more information

http://www.callutheran.edu/iss/technology_services/helpdesk.php or call: 805.493.3698

Help Desk and Accounts

Welcome to the CLU Computer Help Desk. Faculty, staff and students may contact the Help Desk about telephone, network, wireless network, software questions password problems, hardware problems, and general consultation. Faculty and staff may contact the Help Desk with requests for new software, hardware, and telecommunications services.

Our Help Desk includes phone, email, and walk-in computer support for all faculty, staff, and students at California Lutheran University. The Help Desk is located in Pearson Library on the main campus.

What's new at the help desk? What updates have been made?
Please check the [News + Updates](#) section!

To contact the Help Desk, call or email us at:

Phone: (805) 493-3698

Email: helpdesk@callutheran.edu

Final Note

This syllabus is subject to change. Every effort will be made to alert students to changes that occur in a timely manner.