

California Lutheran University

Bachelor's Degree for Professionals

Philosophy 350: Technology and Value Fall 2015

Instructor: Doug Thiel

Woodland Hills Mon 6-9:30 Room 117

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Important Dates:

Sept 14 Last day to add the course/or drop without financial penalty

Oct 12 Last day to drop the course without academic penalty

Course Description: A study of moral issues raised by the recent development of technology, including those related to computers, genetic engineering and the environment. The course examines how current technological achievements profoundly change our social, cultural and moral life and how they create moral dilemmas for our society at the same time.

Course Text: *Society, Ethics, and Technology, Fifth Ed., Wadsworth*

Morton Winston - The College of New Jersey

Ralph Edelbach - The College of New Jersey

ISBN-13: 978-1-133-94355-6

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 attendance (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:

92%-100%: A	77%-78%: C+
90%-91%: A-	71%-76%: C
86%-89%: B+	69%-70%: C-
81%-85%: B	65%-68%: D

79%-80%: B-

<65%: F

Number of Hours Outside of Class: Additionally this 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 40 mins		120 hrs	

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

Attendance/Make-up and Late Policy: As indicated above attendance 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: 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 our first class meeting .At all times we will treat each other with dignity and respect.

Weekly Course Schedule

August 31 – First Day of class, I will go over the 3 main moral theories we will be using this semester. I will also go over how to submit Discussion Board postings.

Sept 7. Labor Day. We will not meet in class, but I will have send you an online quiz on the moral theories

Sept 14 During this class session we watch a movie called “An Inconvenient Truth”

During the coming week you will have a 2nd online quiz to complete. In addition you will need to read *Our Posthuman Future*, p. 306 and *Preventing a Brave New World*, p 331

Sept 21 I will go over the answers to the quiz and we will do Break-out Discussion Groups on the two essays that you were assigned to read. I will also review for the mid-term essay exam

Sept 28 Mid-term essay exam. I will provide you with the details for how we will complete this exam in the Sept 21 class session For next week your reading assignments will be “*Is Google Making Us Stupid*, p. 276 and *Corporate Censorship*, p. 283

Oct 5 We will discuss the mid-term exam and do Group Discussions on the assigned essays. The reading assignment for next week is *Consequences of the Information Revolution*, p. 168 and *In Praise of Big Brother*, p. 203

During this week there will be a discussion board posting for you to complete in Blackboard

Oct 12 We will have our Group Discussions on the assigned essays and we will then discuss “Student Presentations for Extra Credit”

Oct 19 Prior to class, I will also send to you the final reading assignment for this night. We will go over that reading assignment in class. We will finalize the list for student presentations on next week.

Oct 26 Students who have elected to do extra credit student presentations (on one of the essays in the text not covered by the class discussion)...will make their presentations. I will also go over the elements for the final position paper for this course

Nov 2. Prior to class, each student will submit the first page of their term paper to turnitin.com. Then, each student will bring a hard copy to class for further review.

Nov 9-16. This is the Finals Week. I will provide you the information for submitting your final term paper on Nov 2.

I will follow the guidelines to ensure your final grade is posted for you in the timeframes that are set by CLU policy.

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 Cal Lutheran'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 dishonesty 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](#)

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 Madelynn Dickerson (Professionals liaison) at dickerso@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/>

Cal Lutheran 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.

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/>

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 email specific details about your problems to helpdesk@callutheran.edu, click on the following link for more information http://www.callutheran.edu/iss/technology_services/helpdesk.php or call: 805.493.3698

Final Note

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