

California Lutheran University

Bachelor's Degree for Professionals

PHIL 350 Technology and Value Summer 2016 May 23 – August 4

Instructor: Doug Thiel

Oxnard Center Rm 104 Tuesdays 6-9:30

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Important Dates:

June 6 Last day to add the course/or drop without financial penalty

July 13 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 and our individual lives.

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 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:

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 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: 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

May 24. First night of class. Prior to class you will be sent reading materials on the three moral theories we will be discussing during this course. We will go over them and have a break-out discussion group exercise.

For the next class section read...*Technology and Responsibility*, p. 116

May 31 We will have a quiz on the 3 moral theories from last week. We will then go over the assigned essay using a Discussion Group setting. During this class session I will give you the codes you will need to register with turnitin.com AND I will demonstrate how to do a Discussion Board Posting. I will also show you how to use your course shell in blackboard.

During this week there will be a Discussion Board Postings.

Jun 7 During this class session we watch a movie called “An Inconvenient Truth”

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

Jun 14 I will go over the answers to the quiz and we will do Discussion Groups on the two essays that you were assigned to read. .. For next week your reading assignments will be “*Is Google Making Us Stupid, p. 276 and Corporate Censorship, p. 283*”

Jun 21 We will do Discussion Groups on the two essays that you were assigned to read. I will go over the elements of the Mid-term essay exam

Jun 28 Mid-term essay exam due to turnitin.com. This will be done **on-line**. We will not meet in class. I will be providing you feedback and a grade for your exam before our next class session.

The reading assignment for July 5 is *Consequences of the Information Revolution, p. 168 and In Praise of Big Brother, p. 203*

Jul 5 We will have our Group Discussions on the assigned essays and we will then discuss “Student Presentations for Extra Credit”

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

Jul 12th Prior to class, I will 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 for next week.

Jul 19 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

July 26. 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.

August 2. Final term paper due.

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 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.