I. INTRODUCTION

A. This course provides a systematic evaluation of classical and/or contemporary ethical theories concerning the good life, human conduct in society, morals, and standards of value.

B. In support of the objectives of the Texas core curriculum, the course provides significant exercise of students’ critical thinking, communication skills, teamwork, and empirical and quantitative skills. These objectives form a foundation of intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

  • Critical Thinking Skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
  • Communication Skills: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
  • Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
  • Personal Responsibility: to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

II. OVERALL OR GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

Successful completion of this course means that students know how to:
1. Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.
2. Define and appropriately used important terms such as relativism, virtue, duty, rights, utilitarianism, natural law, egoism, altruism, autonomy, and care ethics.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of major arguments and problems in ethics.
4. Present and discuss well-reasoned ethical positions in writing.
5. Apply ethical concepts and principles to address moral concerns.
6. Apply course material to various aspects of life.
7. Discuss ways of living responsibly in a world where people have diverse ethical beliefs.
III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

A. The instructional materials identified for this course are viewable through www.ctcd.edu/books

B. Optional References:
   1. Plato, *The Republic*
   2. Aquinas, Thomas, *Summa Theologica*
   3. Nietzsche, F., *Beyond Good and Evil*
   4. John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignment: your instructor will discuss the role of reading assignments for the course.

B. Projects, Oral Reports, Case Studies, Book Reports, Research Papers: Your instructor will assign one of these items for you to complete as a part of the requirements for this course. He/she will provide specific instructions regarding content, format, timelines, etc.

C. Class Performance: Your instructor will summarize and discuss CTC’s academic policies. You may refer to the CTC catalog for details. Your instructor will provide his/her policies on absences, make up work, etc.

D. Class Participation: Your instructor will explain how class participation affects your course grade, if applicable.

V. EXAMINATIONS

Your instructor will determine how many exams will be given during the course, their content, and when they will be administered. Make-up exams will be handled according to the policy of the individual instructor.

VI. SEMESTER GRADE COMPUTATIONS

A. It is the student’s responsibility to complete the course requirements as defined within this syllabus.

B. Your instructor will explain how to compute your semester grade based upon:
   1. Examinations
   2. Written work
3. Other measurable requirements (if any)

C. Grades are computed as follows: Point/percentage-to-Grade Ratio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 – 100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>80 – 89</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>70 - 79</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>60 - 69</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>0 - 59</td>
<td>F</td>
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VII. NOTES AND ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM COURSE INSTRUCTOR

A. Attendance: Class attendance is an essential element to the learning experience. In addition, CTC policy (effective Spring 2017) requires that instructors certify as attending and participating all students in the class the day after the census date. Students who fail to meet this attendance and participation requirement will be marked as “Never Attended” on the Census-Certification and dropped from the class.

B. Withdrawal: The instructor cannot administratively withdraw a student from class. All students whose attendance is certified on the Census-Certification Roll will receive a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F. [Final letter grades will depend on a student’s performance.]

Students who wish to withdraw from the class after the certification date should do so before the “last day to withdrawal.” This date is listed on the academic calendar in the schedule of classes available on the CTC website. It is the student’s responsibility to know all deadlines and procedures related to withdrawing from the class.

Appeals to the attendance and withdrawal policy must be made to the Records & Registration Department (http://www.ctcd.edu/students/current-ctc-students/registration/contact-us/), not to the instructor.

C. Incomplete Grade: An “IP” grade may be assigned by an instructor if a student has made satisfactory progress in a course but encounters extenuating circumstances beyond his/her control. The instructor makes the final decision concerning the granting of the incomplete grade.

D. The Disability Support Services Program provides services to students who have appropriate documentation of a disability. Students requiring accommodations for class are responsible for contacting the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) located on the main campus. This service is available to all students, regardless of location. Explore the website at www.ctcd.edu/disability-support for further information. Reasonable accommodations, in accordance with federal and state laws, will be given through the DSS office.
E. Instructor Discretion: The instructor reserves the right of final decision in course requirements.

F. Civility: Individuals are expected to be cognizant of what a constructive educational experience is and respectful of those participating in a learning environment. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Course Outline:

Chapter One – “A Moral Theory Primer”
Chapter Two – “Moral Theory Selections”
Chapter Three – “Sexual Morality”
Chapter Four – “Pornography, Hate Speech, and Censorship”
Chapter Five – “Drugs and Addictions”
Chapter Six – “Sexism, Racism, and Reparation”
Chapter Seven – “The Ethics of Immigration”
Chapter Eight – “Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide”
Chapter Nine – “The Ethical Treatment of Animals”
Chapter Ten – “Abortion”
Chapter Eleven – “Cloning and Genetic Enhancement”
Chapter Twelve – “The Death Penalty”
Chapter Thirteen – “War, Terrorism, and Torture”
Chapter Fourteen – “World Hunger and Poverty”
Chapter Fifteen – “The Environment, Consumption, and Climate Change”