

Applied Ethics

XXX:XXX:XXX

John M. DePoe, Course Instructor

Office: XXX EPB

Ph: XXX-XXXX

Hours:

E-mail: xxxx-xxxxx@xxxx.edu

Required Text: Hugh Lafollette, ed., *Ethics in Practice: An Anthology*. 2d. ed. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell, 2002.

<u>Assignments</u>		<u>Grade Scale</u>												
Exam #1:	25%	F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Exam #2:	25%	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Exam #3:	25%													
Quizzes:	15%													
Participation:	10%													

Course Description

This course provides students with an overview of some of the reasoning used to justify contemporary issues in practical ethics. Students will be given readings from authors with different perspectives on moral issues related to euthanasia, abortion, family ethics, the legalization of drugs, the death penalty, and a number of other topics. Students will be encouraged to assess for themselves the strength of the reasoning used in each reading. Classes will primarily focus on clarifying the content of the assigned reading, offering criticisms of the assigned text, offering alternatives not covered in the reading, and addressing questions raised by students.

Exams

Exams will be administered in class. Exams will test students over information given in the readings and lectures. Students will be given more information in class regarding what to expect from and how to prepare for these exams. Anyone who is unsure about the nature of an exam or the material covered in it is encouraged to meet with the instructor during **office hours** or to schedule an appointment with the instructor **before the exam**. The final exam is not comprehensive.

Quizzes

Reading is an essential part of learning philosophy. Periodic pop quizzes will be given during classes for the purposes of checking that reading assignments are done on time. Students are encouraged to take notes on the readings, and *students will be allowed to use their own handwritten notes on pop quizzes*. The two lowest quiz grades will automatically be dropped when calculating the final grade.

Participation/Attendance

Each day of class students will be given a grade for participating in the course. Since being absent entails not participating in class, absences will count as a zero for that day's participation. Those who attend class, stay awake, take notes, show engagement with the material, and participate in discussion (both in class and online) will receive proportionate credit for that day's participation. The participation grade will also consider participation with the online discussion board on this course's website. The three lowest daily participation grades will automatically be dropped when calculating the final grade.

Minimal Passing Requirement

In order to pass the course students must meet two basic requirements: (1) to take all of the exams; and (2) to attend two-thirds of classes. *Those who do not meet these conditions will fail the course regardless of their overall average.*

Tentative Schedule of Readings

Week 1: Introduction

Editor's introduction (pp. 3-12)

Week 2: Euthanasia

Velleman, "Against the Right to Die"

Beauchamp, "Justifying Physician Assisted Deaths"

Week 3: Abortion

Thompson, "A Defense of Abortion"

Warren, "On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion"

Week 4: Abortion

Marquis, "An Argument that Abortion is Wrong"

EXAM #1

Week 5: Animals

Singer, "All Animals are Equal"

Fox, "The Moral Community"

Week 6: Family and Reproductive Ethics

English, "What Do Grown Children Owe Their Parents?"

Rachels, "Morality, Parents, and Children"

Week 7: Family and Reproductive Ethics

Harris, "'Goodbye Dolly?': The Ethics of Human Cloning"

Week 8: Family and Reproductive Ethics

Punzo, "Morality and Human Sexuality"

Levin, "Why Homosexuality is Abnormal"

Week 9: Family and Reproductive Ethics

Corvino, "Homosexuality and the Relevance of Experience"

EXAM #2

Week 10: Narcotics

Wilson, "Against the Legalization of Drugs"

Gooden, "Permissible Paternalism: Saving Smokers from Themselves"

Week 11: Right to Bear Arms

Hughes and Hunt, "The Liberal Basis of the Right to Bear Arms"

LaFollette, "Gun Control"

Week 12: Punishment

Rachels, "Punishment and Desert"

Murphy, "Repentance and Criminal Punishment"

Week 13: Punishment

Pasquerella, "Making Hard Time Even Harder"

Week 14: Death Penalty

Pojman, "In Defense of the Death Penalty"

Week 15: Death Penalty

Reiman, "Against the Death Penalty"

EXAM #3 – To be given at the time and place according to the final exam schedule