Instructor: The Rev. Dr. William Falla  
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Course Description:  
This course is designed to acquaint the student with basic theory of ethics and  
morality as well as with their historical concepts and development. Contemporary ethical  
and moral issues will be examined, and the student will become familiar with the  
essential vocabulary utilized in ethical and moral discussions.

Course Objectives:  
A. To become familiar with major ethical theories and various philosophical  
issues in moral reasoning.  
B. To explore the development of ethical theories within their historical context  
and as they exist today.  
C. To develop consistent and coherent strategies for ethical decision-making.  
D. To explore how our culture influences us in our moral thinking.  
E. To become more aware, and develop an understanding, of contemporary  
ethical issues.

Required Texts:  

Supplemental Materials  
Articles and movies will be on reserve at Reeves Library.

Evaluation:  
Your final course grade will be determined in the following manner:

Exams (50%): You will have take-home mid-term exam (25%) and an in-class  
final exam (25%) on the assigned final exam date. Both exams will be essay exams in  
which you will be able to use your class materials to answer. In both exams, you will be  
graded on mastery of the course material, and quality of your argumentation and writing  
style.

Review Paper (10%): This is a 2 to 3 page paper in which you will choose a piece  
of literature you have read, a movie you have seen, a piece of music or a work of art and,  
with reference to its content, discuss the important moral content that it attempts to
convey. It is due on the date indicated in the syllabus and will be graded on content and style.

**Research Paper (25%)**: In this paper, you will explore a current ethical issue or dilemma in some detail and propose a viable solution. To do this you will use the Library resources to do your research. This research must utilize professional journals or newsletters. Web resources must be cleared with the instructor prior to use. Wikipedia.com is not a legitimate source for the purpose of scholarly research. And may not be used. We will have bibliographic instruction for this paper. The paper itself should be 5 to 7 pages in length excluding the Bibliography. The paper will be graded on quality of research as well as content and style. It is due on the date indicated in the syllabus.

**Class Participation (15%)**: This includes both class attendance and your active participation in class discussions. A class such as this is predicated on class discussion so that this is an important component.

**Grading Scale**

- 92.5 - 100 = A
- 89.5 – 92.4 = A-
- 87.5 – 89.4 = B+
- 82.5 – 87.4 = B
- etc.

All final grades are rounded to the nearest integer.

**Honor Code/Attendance**:

Students are expected to regularly attend class. Attendance contributes to your class participation and therefore is important. If you must miss a class, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor and to insure that arrangements are made to make up all missed assignments or material. You are also expected to hand in all assignments on time. If you must be late with your work, you must make arrangements with the instructor prior to the due date. Failure to do so may result in the lowering of the grade on late submitted work.

Students have an obligation to exhibit honesty in all their work. You will be found to have violated this obligation if you plagiarize or cheat. Any violation will result in the lowering of your grade. Plagiarizing is presenting the work of others as one’s own; cheating is taking, giving or accepting illicit advantage for any course work inside or outside the classroom.
COURSE SYLLABUS

Aug. 28: Overview and Introduction to Ethics
    Rosenstand, pp. 1-23

Sept. 4: Basic Ethical Theory: Values and Narratives
    Rosenstand, pp. 35-90

Sept. 11: Basic Ethical Theory: Relativism and Subjectivism
    Rosenstand, pp.105-136

Sept. 18: Theories of Conduct: Egoism and Utilitarianism
    Rosenstand, pp.156-187, 190-8, 213-248

Sept. 25: Theories of Conduct: Kant
    Rosenstand, pp. 263-289
    Movie: Crime and Misdemeanors

    Paper#1 Due: 9/25

Oct. 2: Theories of Conduct: Rights and Justice
    Rosenstand, pp. 299-308, 315-342, 346-50

Oct. 9: Theories of Virtue: Ancient
    Rosenstand, pp. 371-394, 416-442

Oct. 16: Theories of Virtue: Modern
    Rosenstand, pp. 455-493

Oct. 23: Virtue Ethics: Case Study
    Movie: The Fellowship of the Rings
    Midterm Exam due: 10/23

Oct. 30: Feminist Ethics
    Rosenstand, pp. 566-598, 605-6

Nov. 6: Ethical Issues: Politics

Nov. 13: Ethical Issues: Media
    Rosenstand, pp. 626-32

Nov. 20: Ethical Issues: Environment
    Rosenstand, pp. 641-7

Nov. 27: Applied Ethics: Biomedical
    Movie: Awakenings
    Research Paper Due: 11/29
Dec. 4: **Applied Ethics: Biomedical Ethics**
       In class handouts

Dec. 11: **Review & Final Exam**