PHI 3601 Ethics Fall 2011 Dr. Kenneth Henley. Office: DM 344B Phone: 348-3346 Office Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri.: 10:00-10:50, 12:00-1:30. Website: http://www.fiu.edu/~henleyk


Course Objectives: 1. To stimulate reflection upon several fundamental questions in ethics. 2. To provide an account of the views and arguments of some important ethical theorists. 3. To improve skills of reasoning and argument: searching for consistency and coherence, clarifying questions, ferreting out presuppositions, weighing reasoning and evidence, and exploring alternative accounts of disputed concepts.

Requirements: THIS COURSE IS NOT DELIVERED BY E-MAIL. DISCUSSION IS NOT CONDUCTED BY E-MAIL. EXCEPT IN EMERGENCIES, PAPERS ARE NOT HANDED IN BY E-MAIL. Class attendance is required. Students must read the assignment before coming to class. Class attendance, participation and discussion are important, and may make a difference in the course grade if the student's final average is on the borderline between two grades. Three approximately 6-page papers are required. Dates, topics and guidelines for the papers will be given in class and posted on my website. While the most important dimension is the quality of the reasoning and philosophical understanding, grades on papers also reflect all elements of writing: grammar, punctuation, sentence and paragraph structure, clarity of expression, and essay structure. There will be a comprehensive final examination. Each paper and the final examination will count as 1/4 of the final average for the course. Note that a student cannot pass without completing all work.

Aug. 22 Introduction
Aug. 24, 26 Plato, Euthyphro pp. 5-16
Aug. 29, 31, Sept. 2 Plato, Republic, pp. 65-72 (Book II 357-367) and pp. 90-96 (Book IV 438-445)
Mon., Sept. 5—Labor Day—University Closed
Sept. 7, 9 Aristotle pp. 124-151 (up to beginning of Bk. VI)
Sept. 12, 14, 16 Aristotle pp. 151-177; Nussbaum 704-23
Sept. 19, 21, 23 St. Thomas Aquinas: Selections on class handout & my website (not the selection in our text)
Sept. 26, 28, 30 Hobbes pp. 216-227; Gauthier pp. 537-47
Oct. 3, 5, 7 Hume 243-279
Oct. 10, 12, 14 continue Hume
Oct. 17, 19, 21 Kant pp. 280-308 (Groundwork, Preface & Sections I & II) & O'Neill pp. 562-79
Oct. 24, 26, 28 Kant pp. 308-18 (Section III) & Nagel pp. 752-60
Oct. 31, Nov. 2, 4 Bentham pp. 319-27; Mill pp. 327-61
Nov. 7, 9 continue Mill; Brandt pp. 589-606
Fri., Nov. 11 Veterans’ Day—University Closed
Nov. 14, 16 Williams pp. 606-22; Feinberg pp. 622-32
Fri., Nov. 18 No class. I am presenting a research paper at a conference.
Nov. 21, 23 Rawls 515-37
Thurs., Nov. 24 & Fri., Nov. 25 Thanksgiving—University Closed
Nov. 28, 30 Nietzsche pp. 362-96
Dec. 2 Review
Comprehensive Final Examination: Wed., Dec. 7, 9:45 a.m.—11:45 a.m.—students must provide their own blue-books (examination books)