Warning:

The message below is from The Office of the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs:

“As of Fall 2014, all faculty are required to document students’ academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the following academic activity by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than August 27th. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.”

Required Academic Activity for this course:

Take “Academic Activity” Quiz. Opens midnight Tuesday 20 August, closes midnight Wednesday 27 August in Quizzes area of course website, though actually remains accessible for 8 weeks for late enrollees or for those whose financial aid is delayed.

Worth a total possible 10 points that can be added to Final Course Grade. Consists of 5 multiple choice questions worth 2 points each. Is set for unlimited attempts, saving the highest score.

Covers essentials of logic as outlined on “Deduction” handout in the Files area of the course website.

Contents of This Syllabus

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A. Instructor

Donald E. Jones  Psychology Building 231
Office Phone  407-823-2759
Email  donjones@ucf.edu

Philosophy Department  Psychology Building 220
Philosophy Phone  407-823-2273
Philosophy Email  phildept@ucf.edu
Philosophy Website  http://www.cah.ucf.edu/philosophy/

Office Hours

Monday 12-2
Tuesday, Thursday 11-2
By appointment otherwise
Optional Online Chat Room virtual office hours will be announced from week to week.

B. Course Description in UCF Catalog

PR: COP 3502C or DIG 2000 or PHI 2647. Recent research in critical thinking applied to ethics in science and technology. Fall, Spring.

C. Course Texts

All readings for the course are online. Reading guidelines will be posted in the Files area in a folder entitled “Readings for Unit One” and so on.

D. Course Grade

1/4 Exam One. 15 online multiple choice plus one 2-3 page essay (sent to Turnitin.com)
1/4 Exam Two. 15 online multiple choice plus one 2-3 page essay (sent to Turnitin.com)
1/4 Exam Three 15 online multiple choice plus one 2-3 page essay (sent to Turnitin.com)
1/4 Comprehensive Final Exam. 15 online multiple choice from Unit Three subjects plus 10 online multiple choice covering the course as a whole plus one 2-3 page essay (sent to Turnitin.com) covering both Unit Three subjects and the course as a whole

Plus-Minus. We will not use the plus minus grading system.


Warning: Please be very careful to avoid plagiarism in essays and in Discussion postings. In general, you are most welcome, indeed encouraged, to seek outside sources (written, online, or in-person) for material but must report the source, including page numbers. Paraphrases and direct quotations should be in quotation marks and footnoted. You are welcome to use an informal footnote style by inserting a brief reference inside parentheses in your text that refers to an item that you list in a bibliography at the end of your paper.

The consequences of plagiarism will be an “F” on the assignment, a possible “F” on the exam (if it occurs on an exam), a possible “F” in the course, and required recommendation to Student Conduct for further disciplinary action, including dismissal from UCF.

E. Course Exams

Exam One Due midnight Monday 8 September; distributed midnight Monday 1 September
(Essay topics posted by midnight Monday 25 August)

Exam Two Due midnight Monday 13 October; distributed midnight Monday 6 October
(Essay topics posted by midnight Monday 29 September)

Withdrawal Deadline Monday 27 October

Exam Three Due midnight Monday 10 November; distributed midnight Monday 3 November
(Essay topics posted by midnight Monday 27 October.)

Comprehensive Final Exam Due midnight Monday 9 December; distributed midnight Monday 1 December
(Essay topics posted by midnight Monday 24 November.)

University last day of classes Monday 1 December

F. Comments on Course Exams

Required Exams. Exams consist of 15 multiple choice questions plus one 2-3 page essay listed below.
One 2-3 page essay is to be submitted to Turnitin.com by midnight of the due date of each exam. Please use Ethics in Science and Technology course ID of 8406915 with a password of rosefall14. Make up exams will be arranged individually as needed. Standard documentation may be requested.

**Review Sheets.** For each exam, review sheets will be posted online in an area in a folder in the Files area with that exam’s name (“Exam One Information”, for example).

**G. Course Reading Pages**

Reading pages for each unit will be posted online in the Files area.

**H. Course Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit One</th>
<th>(Start Ethical Theory, Start Heuristics and Biases, Precautionary Principle, Logic)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 25 August</td>
<td>Essay topics for Exam One posted by midnight in the Files area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 1 September</td>
<td>Exam One posted by midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 8 September</td>
<td>Exam One due at midnight. Covers material of Unit One (fundamentals of logic and ethics, recent research in critical thinking, precautionary principle)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Two</th>
<th>(Gaming, Privacy, Intellectual Property, Constitutional Issues, Continue Ethical Theory and Heuristics and Biases, Computing)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 29 September</td>
<td>Essay topics for Exam Two posted by midnight in the Files area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 1 October</td>
<td>Exam Two posted by midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 8 October</td>
<td>Exam Two due at midnight. Covers Material Since Exam One (privacy, jurisprudence, constitutional reasoning, and relevant philosophy of law)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Three</th>
<th>(Professional Ethics, Jurisprudence, Security, Biological Sciences, IT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 27 October</td>
<td>Essay topics for Exam Three posted by midnight in a folder called “Information for Exam One”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 3 November</td>
<td>Exam Three posted by midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 10 November</td>
<td>Exam Three due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Four</th>
<th>(Open Research, Social Sciences Nanosciences, Information Theory, Complexity)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 24 November</td>
<td>Essay topics for Comprehensive Final Exam (including material from Unit Three) posted by midnight in the quizzes area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 1 December</td>
<td>Final Exam (including material from Unit Three) posted by midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 9 December</td>
<td>Final Exam (including material from Unit Three) due at midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 1 December</td>
<td>Last Day of University Classes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**I. Online Requirements**

The course requires repeated access to the course website to retrieve readings, to participate in discussions, to view power point slides, to view videos, and for a variety of other activities, including online presentations for those who choose to do them.

If you do not see the course on your Webcourses list, or have other difficulties, please email me at donjones@ucf.edu.

Posting comments in the Discussion area is not required at any time in the course, nor is attending optional chat rooms (there are no required chat rooms). Nevertheless, considerable credit can be earned for posting in online discussions of the material of the course. I have posted below a list of how points can be earned. I will endeavor to update one’s postings points totals once a week, in the best of weeks twice, so you can determine where you stand. My main way to apply postings points is toward essays for the upcoming exam. Please see the handout on postings points for more information.

Posting comments in Discussion area is not required at any time in the course, nor is attending optional chat rooms. Nevertheless, considerable credit can be earned for posting in online discussions of the material of the course. I have posted below a list of how points can be earned. I will endeavor to update one’s postings points totals once a week, in the best of weeks twice, so you can determine where you stand. My main way to apply postings points is toward essays for the upcoming exam. Please see the handout on postings points for more information.

I will check Discussion postings through Turnitin.com Please make sure you follow the same documentation guidelines for Discussion postings as for Exam essays. You are welcome to use sources, but you must use quotations marks, page numbers in sources, and other parts of standard documentation.
**J. How We Proceed**

We will start with contemporary discussions and use those to branch back into representative philosophers. For each topic we will try to combine both contemporary and historic examples.

I tend to put a lot of material into the Discussion area of the course. My normal week is to post some guidelines in an area for the material of that week, note some key points that might need expansion, hope that you read the material, and invite questions or discussion of the material. I also tend to put quite a few topics up for discussion just because they seem interesting to me or because I think some of you might be interested. You never need to participate in these discussions, though you are invited to do so. And, as far as testing goes, what you are to know for exam questions will be listed and duly noted in the posted Guidelines for Exams, so you won’t have to wonder.

Lists of Readings, Guidelines for Exams, Postings Points Guidelines, Weekly Notes, and Suggested Independent Tracks will normally occur in an area of the course website.

Practice exams and exam multiple choice questions will occur in the Quizzes area.

**K. Turnitin.com**

Take-home essays are to be submitted to Turnitin.com. Please use course ID 8406915 with a password of rosefall14.

I will check Discussion postings through Turnitin.com. Please make sure you follow the same guidelines for Discussion postings as for normal essays. You are welcome to use sources, but you must use quotations marks, page numbers in sources, and other parts of standard documentation.

**L. POSTINGS CREDIT**

1. Postings Not Required

First, let me remind you that postings on the course website are not required. The only required activities in this course are the Exams. So, if you like, you can just ignore the stuff below. Of course, you can post comments on the website without regard to whether you get credit for doing so. Regardless, you might want to know that you can get credit for having done so.

One can build up course credit from postings. Below, in number 4, is a rough formula for doing so. Let’s say that each exam is worth 80 points. Of those 80 points, 30 go to multiple choice (2 points each for 15 questions) and roughly 50 go for one essay of approximately 2-3 pages each.

2. Postings Can Count in Place of Exam Essays

Postings on the course website (or combinations of postings) can count in place of upcoming exam essays, but never in place of the multiple choice. So, if you got 50 points in the postings area, you can assume full credit on your essay for the next upcoming exam.

3. Postings Points Posted

We will have a column for postings points. I will try to update that once a week (at least Sunday), if not more frequently, so that you can know how you stand with respect to the points earned to be used in place of essays for the next upcoming exam.

4. Grading Guidelines for Optional Postings Points

I will endeavor to use the following guidelines for assigning points for postings. I will keep a written record of these assignments of points so that at any given moment you can know why you got the points you got (or failed to get):

   a. **General Guideline:**

   The paradigm example of a full credit (50 points) posting (or sequence of postings), corresponding to a full credit essay on an upcoming exam, would be a posting (or sequence of postings) with a clear thesis that was well supported with good reasons, was as close to valid as natural language arguments can be, showed an awareness of at least one objection either to the supporting reasoning or to the validity of the argument, responded to that objection, and showed overall logical coherence.
b. Specific Guidelines (with rough range of possible points in parenthesis):

1) Distinction that clarifies a line of reasoning or application (4-8 points)
2) Analogy that clarifies or extends a line of thought (4-12 points)
3) Reconceptualization of some problem that opens up a new way of understanding it (4-16 points)
4) Neat little example that shows something relevant to some point (4-8 points)
5) Counter example to some thesis, argument, or supporting reason (4-8 points)
6) Application of some material that we are studying that shows understanding and relevance of the material (1-16 points, depending upon its development and importance)
7) Visual, auditory, or other multimedia illustration of some point in the course (6-48 points)
8) And lots of other neat stuff that you can do (1-48 points)