

Ethics in Science and Technology

PHI 3626 BW61
3 Semester Hours Credit

Summer B Term 2016
Don Jones

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A. Instructor

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Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday 11-1 (Possibly adjusted after first week of class)
Monday, Friday by arrangement
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 Pages area in folders entitled "Readings for Quiz One", "For Quiz Two", and so on.

D. Course Grade

1/8 Quiz One.	15 online multiple choice due midnight Tuesday 5 July
1/8 Quiz Two.	15 online multiple choice due midnight Friday 8 July
1/8 Quiz Three.	15 online multiple choice due midnight Friday 15 July

1/8 Midterm Essay	3-4 page essay submitted to Turnitin.com at course ID of 12848148 with password of RoseB9. Due midnight Friday 15 July
1/8 Quiz Four.	15 online multiple choice due midnight Friday 22 July
1/8 Quiz Five.	15 online multiple choice due midnight Friday 29 July
1/8 Comprehensive Final Exam	25 online multiple choice due midnight Friday 5 August
1/8 Final Essay	3-4 page essay submitted to Turnitin.com at course ID of 12848148 with password of RoseB9. Due midnight Friday 5 August

Missed or Blown Quiz: You may miss or otherwise do poorly on one of the five multiple choice quizzes, not the Comprehensive Final Exam multiple choice and not the essays. For your grade on the missed multiple choice questions, I will automatically substitute the average of your highest and lowest scores on your other multiple choice quizzes.

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

General Grading Criteria for Essays: Clarity of thesis, support for thesis, awareness of objections to thesis and its supporting reasoning, response to objections, overall logical coherence, and quality of writing.

Discussion Postings: Discussion postings are not required at any time in the course. Nevertheless, lots of optional discussion will take place in the Discussion area. You can get credit for Discussions postings that are related to course content. Points are allocated according to the guidelines at the end of this syllabus. Discussion points can be substituted for credit on the next upcoming essay (not for multiple choice). Each of the two essays is worth 30 possible points. Only one essay can be replaced by discussion postings points.

If you get 30 or more points from Discussion postings, then you automatically get full credit for the next upcoming essay and are exempt from writing it. I will take care of this automatically—you don't need to request it.

If you get fewer than 30 points, those can be applied to reduce the length of the upcoming essay. So, for example, if you got 15 points in discussion postings by the time the first essay was due, your essay length would only need to be one half of 3-4 pages.

I will try to upgrade your Discussion posting points totals at least once week. At any time, if you would like to know your updated total and you don't see it posted online in the Grades section, just email me at donjones@ucf.edu and I can send it to you.

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. Calendar for Course Quizzes and Essays

Essay Topics for Midterm Essay	Posted in Pages area midnight Monday 27 June; due midnight Friday 15 July. 3-4 page essay on topics from first three weeks of course.
Quiz One	Due midnight Tuesday 5 July; distributed midnight Wednesday 29 June Covers 15 multiple choice questions on Ethical Theory
Quiz Two	Due midnight Friday 8 July; posted midnight Wednesday 6 July Covers 15 multiple choice questions on Ethical Principles
Quiz Three	Due midnight Friday 15 July; posted midnight Wednesday 13 July Covers 15 multiple choice questions on Intellectual Property

Essay Topics for Final Essay	Posted midnight Monday 18 July; due midnight Friday 5 August Posted in Pages area in “Final Essay Topics” folder.
Withdrawal Deadline	Midnight Thursday 21 July
Quiz Four	Due midnight Friday 22 July; posted midnight Wednesday 20 July Covers 15 multiple choice questions on
Quiz Five	Due midnight Friday 29 July; posted midnight Wednesday 27 July. Covers 15 multiple choice questions on
Comprehensive Final Exam	Due midnight Friday 5 August; posted midnight Monday 1 August. (Essay topics posted by midnight Monday 20 July.)
University last day of classes	Friday 5 August

F. Comments on Course Quizzes and Essays

Missed or Blown Quiz: You may miss or otherwise do poorly on one of the five multiple choice quizzes, not the Comprehensive Final Exam multiple choice and not the essays. For your grade on the missed multiple choice questions, I will automatically substitute the average of your highest and lowest scores on your other multiple choice quizzes.

Review Sheets: For each quiz, review sheets will be posted online in a folder in the Pages area with that quiz’s name.

Guidelines for Essays: Please see the handout on Guidelines for Essays in the Pages area.

Topics for Essays: Please see the handout on Topics for Essays in the Pages area.

Turnitin.com: Essays are to be submitted to Turnitin.com at course ID of 12848148 with password of RoseB9.

G. Course Reading Pages

Reading pages for each unit will be posted online in the Pages area in a folder entitled “Course Readings”.

H. Course Calendar

The main calendar for the summer course is the individual quiz and essay dates which are listed in Section E, above. Any changes in calendar or dates will be announced in the Announcements area of the course website and sent through email.

I. Online Requirements

The course requires repeated access to the course website to retrieve readings, to participate in discussions if you choose to do so, 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 toward one required essay for posting in online discussions of the material of the course. I have listed below 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 an essay 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 required 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 optional 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 listed in the Pages area, 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 the Pages area of the course website.

Practice Quizzes: Optional practice quizzes with practice multiple choice questions will occur in the Quizzes area. They do not show up in the Assignments area unless they are a required quiz. I urge you to take the practice quizzes for a given quiz before taking the required quiz.

K. Turnitin.com

Take-home essays are to be submitted to Turnitin.com. Please use at course ID of 12848148 with password of RoseB9.

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. One essay of 3-4 pages is worth 30 points. The points you accumulate on Discussion postings can count toward that essay.

2. Postings Can Count in Place of an Essay.

Postings on the course website (or combinations of postings) can count in place of one upcoming required essay, but never in place of the multiple choice quizzes. So, if you got 30 points in the postings area, you can assume full credit on your next required essay.

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 (30 points) posting (or sequence of postings), corresponding to full credit on the next upcoming required essay, 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)