**Ethics in Science and Technology**

PHI 3626 BW60 Summer B Term 2017
3 Semester Hours Credit
Don Jones

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**A. Instructor**

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|---|---|
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Office Hours      Online Office Hours First Two Weeks. Send email whenever it is convenient for you. Can use email at donjones@ucf.edu, or, Donald.Jones@ucf.edu, or, course email. They all come to the same location. I check email at least once a day, usually more frequently.

In-person office hours weeks 3-6. Tuesday 11-2 and by appointment

Occasional Chat Room Office Hours as Needed.

**B. Course Description in Catalog**

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

**C. Course Texts**

All readings for the course are online. A list of weekly readings posted in the Files area in a folder entitled "Course Readings and Topics"

Reading guidelines also will be posted in the Files area in folders entitled "Guidelines for Readings for Exam One", For Exam Two", and so on.

Weekly reading and course content ideas posted in the Pages area.

**D. Course Grade  (Each 1/5 component will count as 50 possible points with a total possible of 250 points)**

1/5   Exam One.  Online multiple choice due midnight Friday 7 July  (Opens midnight Thursday 6 July). One attempt.

1/5   Essay One.  2-3 page essay over topics from "Essay One Topics" list in Pages area.    Due midnight Friday 14 July.  To be turned in to Turnitin.com at Class ID of 15594634 with Password of OtterLake.

1/5   Exam Two.  Online multiple choice due midnight Friday 21 July. Opens midnight Thursday 20 July. One attempt.

1/5   Essay Two       2-3 page essay over topics from "Essay Two Topics" list in Pages area. Due midnight Friday 4 August to Turnitin.com.  Please submit to Course ID of 15594634 with Password of OtterLake.

1/5   Comprehensive Online Final Exam. Online multiple choice due midnight Friday 4 August.  Opens midnight Thursday 3 August.  One attempt. One half covers the entire course and one half covers the material since Exam Two.

**E. Course Calendar for Due Dates for Exams and Essays (All Due Dates Are Midnight Unless Otherwise Stated)**

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|---|---|
| Monday 26 June | Course materials posted in Files and Pages areas.  (Readings, Exam Topics, Essay Topics) |
| Friday 7 July | Exam One Due |
| Friday 14 July | Essay One Due |
| Friday 21 July | Exam Two Due |
| Friday 4 August | Essay Two Due |
| Friday 4 August | Exam Three Due |

**F. Comments on Course Grade**

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 related to course content.  Points given according to the guidelines at the end of this syllabus.  Discussion points can substitute for credit on the next upcoming essay (not for multiple choice).  Each of the two essays is worth 50 possible points.

If you get 50 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 won't need to request it.

If you get fewer than 50 points, those can reduce the length of the upcoming essay.  For example, if you got 25 points in discussion postings by the time the first essay was due, your essay length would only need to be one-half of 2-3 pages.

I will try to upgrade your Discussion posting points totals at least once week, usually on the weekend.  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.

**G. 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](mailto:donjones@ucf.edu).

Posting comments in the Discussion area is <u>not</u> 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 an upcoming 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 use Turnitin.com to check postings in the Discussion area. Please make sure you follow the same documtation 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.

**H. 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.

<u>Practice Quizzes</u>: 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. For exams, the most helpful practice is with the practice quizzes for the quizzes. I will condense those into one Practice Quiz for each exam.

**I. Turnitin.com**

Take-home essays are to be submitted to Turnitin.com. Please use at course ID of 1559463 with password of OtterLake.

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.

**J. Discussion 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 2-3 pages is worth 50 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 an upcoming required essay, but never in place of the multiple choice quizzes. So, if you got 50 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 (50 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)