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**A. Instructor**

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<u>Office Hours</u>	Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 11:30-1 PM      By appointment otherwise
	Optional Online Chat Room virtual office hours 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 Readings**

All readings will be online.

**D. Course Grade**

Warning: Please ignore the percentages listed to the extreme right in the webcourses Grades page. They are computed automatically by the webcourses software according to a formula that does not take into account our course grade schema. It does not take into account the varied weighting of the different assignments. Beware: you can look like you are getting a 94 percent, for example, in the course when you are in fact getting a lower percentage as computed by our course grade schema.

1/4 Exam One.	Multiple choice, matching, true-false, plus 1 take-home essay
1/4 Exam Two.	Multiple choice, matching, true-false, plus 1 take-home essay
1/4 Exam Three	Multiple choice, matching, true-false, plus 1 take-home essay
1/4 Final Exam	Multiple choice, matching, true-false, plus 1 take-home essay

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.

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, and Writings Schedule**

Take-Home Essay for each exam is due midnight the day the exam closes.

Exam One	Monday 5 February to Wednesday 7 February
Exam Two	Monday 5 March to Wednesday 7 March
Spring Break	12-17 March
Withdrawal Deadline	Wednesday 21 March
Exam Three	Monday 16 April to Wednesday 18 April
Last Day of Our Class	Monday 23 April
Comprehensive Final Exam	Monday 30 April to Tuesday 1 May Covers entire course.

## **F. Comments on Course Exams**

### Core and Tracks

Each exam will consist of two quizzes: a Core quiz and a Track quiz. Everyone is to take the Core questions along with a selection of corresponding Track questions.

One Track will be called “Core Extension” for those who wish to take a quiz only over more of the Core. The material that is covered in the “Core Extension” will be so designated throughout the course.

The other specialty Tracks will vary throughout the course with the Tracks for Unit One being “Core Extension”, Philosophy, Cognitive Science, History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, Computing (IT and CS) and Information Sciences.

Only the Cognitive Sciences track is required of anyone. It is required of people getting credit in the Cognitive Sciences Minor.

Majors in IT or CS are not required to take the “Computing (IT and CS) and Information Sciences” track, though it is provided for their benefit (and for other people as well, of course).

Required Exams. Exams consist of multiple choice, matching, true-false, and one essay listed below.

One 2-3 page take-home essay is to be submitted to Turnitin.com by midnight the day the Exam closes. Please use course ID of 17113893 with password of Potato1972. Make-up exams arranged individually as needed. Standard documentation may be requested.

Review Sheets. For each exam, review sheets posted online in an area in a folder in the Files area of the course website 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 Pages area of the course website.

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Reading pages for each unit will be posted online in the Pages area in a folder named for the upcoming Unit such as “Unit One Readings”.

## **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](mailto: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 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 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. 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 post at course ID of with 17113893 password of Potato1972.

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 2-3 pages is worth 20 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 20 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 (often Sunday), 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)