

FIRST DAY HANDOUT -- COURSE GUIDELINES -- CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS

Course: PHI 112, Ethics, Meeting in Arvada, Weekend College format.

Instructor: Guy Till – guytill22.gt@gmail.com

This class has three Friday evening sessions and three Saturday sessions.

Lunch break is from noon till 1:00 p.m.

First Friday, 5:00 PM till 10:00 PM

First Saturday, 8:00 AM till 5:30 PM.

Second Friday, 5:00 PM till 10:00 PM

Second Saturday, 8:00 AM till 5:30 PM.

Third Friday, 5:00 PM till 10:00 PM

Third Saturday, 8:00 AM till 5:30 PM.

Text: *Justice, What is the Right Thing to Do?* By Michael Sandel. **The *Justice* textbook is essential for this course.**

NOTE: For perspective, it may be useful to refer to resources such as a dictionary of philosophy or encyclopedia of philosophy for general descriptions or definitions of terms used in philosophy. The class will proceed by reviewing passages, lectures, some pertinent videos, and discussion.

I. General objectives of the course: Learn about some of the traditional ways of discussing issues of right and wrong in philosophy. Examine ethical theories in relation human life, thought, and experience. Philosophical theories may be applied or motivated through a selection of contemporary personal and social issues.

II. Specific course outcome objectives:

1. Identify and distinguish between teleological (outcome determined, purposive, goal oriented) and deontological (absolute, more strictly principled) ethical orientations.
2. Place several historically significant or influential ethical theorists in perspective.
3. Be able to discuss some of the issues arising from the relationships between some of the metaphysical (i.e., what is real) schools of thought and the ethical (i.e., what is right) schools of thought in the philosophical tradition.

III. Course requirements and grading:

1. Regular attendance is important. If an absence is not avoidable, specific make-up work must be negotiated to make sure the student addresses the material covered during the absence.
2. Methods of evaluation: There will be a number of short quizzes based on the readings and class discussions up to the date of the quiz, generally with emphasis on the most recent readings or class work. There will be a final test at the end of the course. Taking a quiz or the final test late normally will result in a lower grade. Tests and quizzes will be open-book and open-note.

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3. Grading will be based, in part, on classroom participation. Discussion is a part of philosophy. Listening counts. Good questions as well as good comments are useful. Listening carefully to each other and to the instructor is often essential to participating meaningfully in the classroom setting.
4. A one to two page reaction paper commenting on the readings or classroom discussion may be submitted for additional credit.
5. The final grade will be generated by combining the average of the quiz grades (40 %), the final test (30%), and classroom participation, including any reaction papers. (30%).

OPTIONAL: The grading scheme may be modified (need prior approval before proceeding) if a student would prefer to write a five to ten page, double spaced, type written paper. The student must negotiate for approval of the proposed topic. The student must also negotiate for the area of evaluation the student wants the paper to apply to, e.g. classroom participation, performance on quizzes, or final test.

The optional paper may be based, in part, on a particular ethical issue addressed in Ethics for Life. The paper should quote from two or three recognized traditional philosophers and relate the views quoted to the student's own views of the subject.

You may wish to motivate your paper by imagining a traditional philosopher's response to a contemporary question and giving the reasons for your proposed response, e.g. What would Kant or Ayn Rand say about euthanasia or cloning? Which view do you find more persuasive? How come?

IV. Tentative assignments – for the first meeting, please read the first chapter of *Justice* and at least ten pages of another chapter of your own choosing. Assignments will be announced in class – if you miss a class session, please contact or e-mail the instructor the next day for a summary of work to be covered.

V. How to contact the instructor: Please feel free to talk with me during breaks or after class. My cell phone is 720-394-6911. If you leave a message but do not get a response, please call again. Email = guytill@msn.com or guytill22.gt@gmail.com . Through RRCC I can send e-mails to students which I believe go to the student RRCC e-mail address. Please keep an eye on your RRCC e-mail if there is a snow day, the building is closed, or some other major event causes some kind of interruption in the class schedule.

VI. Red Rocks Community College is committed to diversity in its people and programs. The College is an equal opportunity educational institution which prohibits all forms of discrimination and harassment including those that violate federal and state law, or the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education Board Policies 3-120 and/or 4-120. The College does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex/gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, age, national origin or ancestry, pregnancy status, veteran's status, genetic information, physical and/or mental disability or any other category protected by applicable law in its employment practices or education programs. Red Rocks Community College will take appropriate steps to ensure that the lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and/or participation in vocational education programs.

VII. The College has designated Dr. Bill Dial, Executive Director of Human Resources as its Affirmative Action Officer/Title IX Administrator/Equal Opportunity Administrator with the responsibility to coordinate its civil rights compliance activities and grievance procedures. For information, contact: Dr. Bill Dial, Executive

Director of Human Resources, Title IX Administrator, Title VII/Equal Opportunity Administrator,
ADA/Section 504 Administrator, PO Box 17, 13300 West Sixth Avenue, Lakewood, CO 80228-1255.
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