

SU2009-PHIL-4910

Section Information: SU2009-PHIL-4910

Independent work by Castillo in Summer 2009

Section Instructor: Christine James

E-mail chjames@valdosta.edu

Course Requirements for 51049 PHIL 4910 A A 3.00 Business Ethics and Law
Summer II 2009

Dr. Christine James

Office: 110 Ashley Hall, Valdosta State University

Telephone: 229-259-7609

Mailbox: Philosophy Department Office, Valdosta State University

Fax: 229-259-5011

E-mail address: chjames@valdosta.edu

Purpose and goals of the course: This course will provide a social and political analysis of business ethics, with special emphasis on the student's experience as an intern at The People's Court television program filmed in New York during the summer of 2009. We will address traditional business ethics and philosophy of law perspectives, and consider how the special role of the media has challenged the status quo. Student will develop an understanding of business ethics as it relates to the history of ethical theory, and we will use a variety of case studies from the text and the court television program.

Learning Outcomes:

Philosophy courses at Valdosta State University contribute to the VSU General Education Outcomes listed at the link below, with special emphasis on numbers 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8.

<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/VSUGeneralEducationOutcomes.shtml>

The Learning Outcomes for our PHIL 4910 are:

1. To critically analyze and evaluate the distinctions among the various philosophical approaches to business ethics and law, including the historical nature of business ethics as an academic field.
2. To analyze how philosophical inquiry applies to 'real-world' circumstances and to specific case studies in the mass media, with special attention to the theory and practice method as it is used in business ethics and law, and to understand the ethical theory models and how to apply each to real world policy issues.
3. To become conversant with understand the historical and structural context of business ethics and philosophy of law, as well as specific examples of the issues of race, class and gender as they influenced the outcome of specific policy decisions and legal cases.
4. To recognize and define different world views, adopting a reasonably viable one and justifying it in a philosophically informed way that emphasizes critical reasoning and argument, and which shows a careful review of the extant business ethics and law literature.
5. To demonstrate the ability to analyze, in both oral and written discourse, selected ethics issues within an appropriate ethical framework and offer alternative resolutions to the problem with reference to current ethics journals and research methodologies.
6. To synthesize defensible conclusions of whether legal professionals are applying ethics in the design of policies and programs.

7. To be familiar with what academic philosophy is, and to understand how it can be applied to daily life as well as specific careers.

Members of the faculty in Philosophy and Religious Studies have verified that these outcomes are in line with the outcomes of the course as it is taught at peer institutions in the State System of Georgia.

These course-specific learning outcomes contribute to the departmental learning outcomes of the Philosophy and Religious Studies Major by enabling students better to

1. To encourage an understanding of central issues, topics and philosophers in the history of philosophy, from the ancient to the modern periods.
2. To develop students' abilities to think, write, and speak critically and logically.
3. To enable students to challenge their own ideas and to develop self-understanding in the context of a diverse range of ideas which inform contemporary controversies and social conflict.
4. To enable students to engage in independent philosophical research, and to be responsible for communicating their understanding of the issues researched and developed, including a working familiarity with current research methods.
5. To incorporate philosophical positions in oral and written communications.
6. To critically outline and analyze a philosophical question.

Our materials are:

Requirements: Class participation and contact, two written papers, and chapter précis to be submitted weekly.

How grades will be calculated:

A = 100 - 90%

B = 89 - 80%

C = 79 - 70%

D = 69 - 60%

F = 59 - 0%

Class participation, contact = 30%

2 Extensive Research Paper at 20% = 40%

Weekly précis from the textbook at 30% = 30%

Total = 100%

*****Please note that I am not obligated to accept late work or to allow work to be turned in after the date given.*****

Participation Policy: Because this class is an email and internet-based class, your participation in the class will be evaluated through your contact and posting related to the class text. You should email me your work on a regular basis to receive full credit.

Special Needs:

Students requiring classroom accommodations or modification because of a documented disability should discuss this need with me at the beginning of the semester. If you are such a student, but you are not registered with the Access Office, you should contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities in the Farber Building. Their phone number is 245-2498.

Please note that I am not obligated to accept late work or to allow "make up" work after the date an assignment or exam or paper is completed by the other members of the class. This is especially the case in an online class. The class is not totally self-paced. You'll need to send in your work by the end of specific days in the class Calendar tool, and it will be your responsibility to keep on time.

Schedule

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Required Texts:

Business Ethics: People, Profits and the Planet by Kevin Gibson. McGraw-Hill Humanities/Social Sciences/Languages; 1 edition (August 16, 2005)

ISBN-10: 0072998725

ISBN-13: 978-0072998726

Readings:

Week 1 due June 17: Chapter 1&2

Week 2 due June 24: Chapter 3&4

Week 3 due July 1: Chapter 4&5

Week 4 due July 8: Chapter 5&6

Week 5 due July 15: Chapter 10&11

Week 6 due July 22: Chapter 12&13

Weekly Summaries of both chapters.

Papers:

Week 4 due July 8: 10 page paper

Week 6 due July 29: 10 page paper

Tips for doing well in Philosophy classes, adapted from a handout by Robert Scott

1. Read text with a pencil and underline the important ideas and key concepts. Write down technical ideas, key terms, key distinctions between two terms, definitions, diagrams, etc. to help you remember them.
2. Write questions or reactions you have to the text in the margin of the book. Ask about these questions in class, and keep them in mind, since they may provide good points to make about that author in papers you will write for class.
3. Read ahead to see the ultimate objectives of the chapter and of the individual readings. Keep in mind the overall picture of the chapters given in the introductory sections to each chapter in the book.
4. Work with the new terminology frequently, and try to apply it to situations outside of class. I would recommend flash cards to help you memorize the meanings of new terms quickly.
5. For longer readings, be sure to review the reading as a whole after you have read it section-by-section. What was the main question the author wanted to address? What were the answers? What concepts were used to make the points?
6. When confronted with a difficult reading or question, break it down into parts, and into individual ideas. This will at least help to clarify the question, even if it might not give the answer. And for philosophy, clarifying the question is really half the battle!
7. Ponder an unsolved problem and return to it every so often to see if it will give. Inspiration may happen at an unexpected time, and the subconscious mind does work on problems even when we aren't consciously aware of it.
8. Begin work on all the class tasks early, and spread out your work over time so as to maximize your chances for comprehending the readings accurately, memorizing the information, and grappling with the questions for papers.

9. If you do need to meet with an instructor outside of class, be sure to have your questions for the instructor planned out ahead of time, to make the meeting as productive as possible.

10. Always think about the philosophical issues for yourself, rather than waiting to be told what to think or believe.

11. Study for all exams on a daily basis, for at least a week before the exam date. You will need to know who said what, from memory.

12. Try to anticipate the questions that will be asked on an examination beforehand. Questions may come from the readings or from lectures and class discussions, but in either case, certain terms and concepts will be emphasized more than others.

13. Listen carefully to different points of view, and actively respond (when you read, when you are in class, and when you write your philosophy papers)!

14. Philosophy involves skills, like learning to appreciate a good debate, learning to imagine the world differently than we assume it to be, and appreciating the world with a sense of wonder.