**DO NOT LOSE. ALWAYS HAVE DURING CLASS. THERE IS A SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNEMENTS ON THIS. THE GRADE BREAK DOWN IS ALSO ON THIS.**

**Philosophy 202: Introduction to Ethics Syllabus**

**Class Times**: Tuesday, Thursday 6-7:20pm

**Instructor**: Alex Nuttall **Office**: SSH 101 **Office Hours**: arranged

**E-mail** (best way to contact me): nuttala@linnbenton.edu (Since I will not be on campus often, I ask that you e-mail me whenever you need my help.)

**Text**:

*Doing Ethics: Moral Reasoning and Contemporary Issues*

**Course Description**:

The goal is to provide a solid view of the nature of ethical study, critical thinking, and the landscape of ethical theory.

**Grade Breakdown**: (Final grade is the percentage of points earned divided by points possible, (200pts))

Quizzes: 40pts

Argument Analyses: 60pts

Reading and Review Questions (as assigned for every class): 50pts

Final: 50pts

**Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty:**

This means trying to use someone else’s work in place of your own work. If you do this I will have to follow school policy in enforcing any and all punishments. Just don’t do it—you will get caught and any potential gain is not going to be worth it.

**Students with Disabilities:** Students who may need accommodations due to documented disabilities, who have medical information which the instructor should know, or who need special arrangements in an emergency, should speak with the instructor during the first week of class. If you have not accessed services and think you may need them, please contact Disability Services, 917-4789.

**Attendance**:

Please expect to attend and be prepared for every class. Attendance is important for receiving the information pertinent to the quizzes and preparation is important for class discussion. I also may employ additional reading quizzes on an *as needed* basis.

**Discussions**: Since we will be discussing many topics in this course that you might have strong feelings about, it is important to cover some guidelines and rules for how we go about discussing things.

1. *Be respectful*. This goes without saying, but it is often overlooked, misunderstood, and not very well obeyed. It means being respectful in your thoughts as well as what you say. If you are telling yourself silently how stupid an idea is or how much you disagree with it, you’re not being respectful.
2. *Be honest*. A good discussion often benefits from frankness. This doesn’t mean being pushy, insulting, or being what some call ‘blunt’ (which seems often to be just an excuse for being impulsive and disrespectful). It does mean, though, that if you disagree, you should not be afraid to say that you do—as long as you explain *why* you disagree. It’s the discussion of those disagreements that makes for a meaningful discussion.
3. *Be courteous*. This goes along with being respectful, but is a bit more specific. It involves proper decorum, politeness, etc. That is, don’t cut people off, don’t be unduly mean, don’t name call, don’t roll your eyes, don’t stop listening because you disagree, and so on.

We’ll also be covering elements of critical thinking that help clarify and endorse these guidelines. These elements will help you avoid the pitfalls of thinking that tend to make meaningful discussions difficult.

**E-mail:** I will use e-mail to contact you, so please check your e-mail regularly!

**Class Schedule** (Subject to Change)

*Week 1*: **Jan. 7th**: Introductions, Class Format, What is Philosophy?

**Jan. 9th**: Basics of Argument Handout

*Week 2*:

**Jan. 14th**: Evaluating Moral Arguments, pgs. 43-64, review questions 1-10, exercises 1-12

**Jan. 16th**: Ethics and the Examined Life, pgs. 3-21, review questions 1-13

*Week 3*:

**Jan. 21st**: Subjectivism, Relativism, and Emotivism, pgs. 22-40, review questions 1-13

**Jan. 23rd**: ***Quiz 1***; Power of Moral Theories, pgs. 67-77, review questions 1-8

*Week 4*:

**Jan. 28th**: *Article Analysis 1 Draft due*; Consequentialist Theories, pgs. 78-101, review questions 1-10

**Jan. 30th**: Nonconsequentialist Theories, pgs. 102-125, review questions 1-13

*Week 5*:

**Feb. 4th**: *Article Analysis 1 Draft Rewrite due*; Virtue Ethics, pgs. 136-160, review questions 1-10

**Feb. 6th**: ***Quiz 2***; Altering Genes and Cloning Humans, pgs. 229-237, Glannon, Kass, Brock, pgs. 288-290.

*Week 6*:

**Feb. 11th**: *Article Analysis 2 due*; Capital Punishment, pgs. 353-362, Haag, Reiman, Gelernter, pgs. 407-409

**Feb. 13th**: Sexual Morality, pgs. 410-450, especially Scruton, Finnis, Nagel

*Week 7*:

**Feb. 18th**: ***Quiz 3***; Same-Sex Marriage, pgs. 451-486

**Feb. 20th**: *Article Analysis 3 due;* Environmental Ethics, pgs. 487-496, Taylor, Schmidtz, Sterba, pgs. 540-542

*Week 8*:

**Feb. 25th**: Animal Rights, pgs. 543-552, Singer, Warren, Rachels, pgs. 591-594

**Feb. 27th**: *Article Analysis 4 due;* Political Violence, pgs. 595-613, Sterba, Nathanson, Dershowitz, pgs. 678-680

*Week 9*:

**Mar. 4th**: Global Economic Justice, pgs. 681-687, Rawls, Nozick, Singer, pgs. 742-744

**Mar. 6th**: TBA

*Week 10*:

**Mar. 11th**: *Article Analysis 5 due;* ***Quiz 4***; TBA

**Mar. 13th**: TBA

**Mar. 18th:** *Article Analysis 6 due;* **Final (quizzes 1-4 altogether)**