

Professional Responsibility

Philosophy 244

Spring, 2022

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Instructor:

Dr. Jordan Baker [he/him]

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REQUIRED TEXT:

(1) All PDF readings will be posted to Canvas.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Speech Groups:

At the beginning of the semester I will divide the class into 5 groups of 5 students, partially on the basis of your response to the "Future Profession Survey." This will serve two purposes: First, these will be the group that you will give your individual case analysis presentations to, that is to say, they will be your audience. Second, these folks will be your co-presenters for your final group project at the end of the semester.

Future Profession Survey: (5%): At the beginning of the semester you will take a brief survey indicating what future professions (or jobs) you are interested in pursuing. If you are not sure about your future career path you can just pick a profession that interest you most. This will (hopefully) allow me to group you with likeminded students for your final project.

Reading Quiz: (10% in total)

Before each class where a reading is assigned you will complete a short three question, multiple choice quiz **on Canvas**. This is just to encourage and solidify your understanding of the texts. There is no time limit for the quiz and you can do them with the text in front of you, if you so desire.

Ethical Theory Exam (15%): This exam tests the main theories and concepts from **Module 1** and **Module 2** of the course. Questions are a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and matching. You will take it on Canvas.

CASE-STUDY Analysis (15% in total): These relate to the various categories of professions and course topics. Analyze the cases according to the relevant stakeholders, interest, and social conditions, using the provided framework.

Each analysis should be at least 200 words. **NOTE: I give you a template to help you think through these assignments. I expect you to upload the completed template for the 1st case analysis ONLY; after that you ONLY need to upload your short analysis essay for evaluation.**

First Presentation — PowerPoint Practice (2-4min) (5%): Design and present a PowerPoint presentation based on the design principles detailed in David Philips' video entitled "How to Avoid Death by Powerpoint", it can be about any topic that interests you! This presentation will be uploaded to Canvas.

Second Presentation—Case Study Analysis (5 to 7 mins) (15%): Design and present a presentation that analyzes one of several cases I provide you with. Much like your written case studies, you should identify stakeholders, identify the conflict, and suggest what the ethically right action should be and *why* you think this is the correct. There are more specific guiding question in the assignment itself. This assignment should also use PowerPoint or some other type of visual aid. **You will present this during a Friday class, sometime during April or May.**

Final Presentation Outline (5%): Develop a written outline with your presentation group for the final presentation (see below).

Final Presentation— Original Case Study (7-12min) (15%): Your presentation group will identify a **code of ethics** that is relevant to the profession of your choice, and find a relevant case of moral conflict. Evaluate the conflict based on the code of ethics, and then provide a **meta-analysis** of the success of the code of ethics in addressing the conflict and its underlying ethical principles. This assignment should also use PowerPoint or some other visual aid. Additional details are in the online assignment.

Final Reading & Course Reflection (5%)— In this final reflection, instead of merely raising some questions or an important point I would like you to do two things: (1) reflect on your experience in the class as a whole, and (2) reflect on the final reading of the course. Is it applicable to your own life/career path? About 1000 words.

Attendance (10%): Because philosophical understanding is developed through argument and discussion class attendance is crucial to your success. You cannot explore your ideas adequately without being in class! However, I also understand that sometimes you may need to skip class for a host of reasons. As such, I have two policies that allow you to skip class: (1) you will receive **three unexcused absences**, this means you can skip a normal class period without having to let me know ahead of time. (2) After that you

can **skip any other class** *only after sending me an email letting me know you are missing class BEFORE the class you skip*. These subsequent skips can be **for any reason** and you don't necessarily need to tell me what those reasons are, however, you need to let me know you'll be gone before the class you skip. If you do not let me know I will remove **5 points** from your attendance score for each class period you miss. Exceptions will be made for emergency situations.

GRADING:

94-100: A	87-89: B+	77-79: C+	67-69: D+	0-59: F
90-93: A-	84-86: B	74-76: C	64-66: D	
	80-83: B-	70-73: C-	60-63: D-	

A-level grade: the student has not only met the basic labor requirements of the course, but consistently produced good quality work as specified in the rubrics and the judgement of the instructor.

B-level grade: the student has attended and come prepared to every class discussion. They have participated in class discussions regularly by contributing quality comments and questions. They have completed and submitted every assignment on time and in accordance with all of the requirements. In general, the student is engaged and demonstrates a suitable understanding of the material.

C-level grade: the student has fallen short in any or some of the aspects that are required for a B-level grade.

D-level grade: the student has fallen significantly short in the aspects that are required for a B-level grade to an extent that does not warrant a C-level grade.

F-level grade: the student has not met the minimum requirements of the course

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY: There is a **24 hour (one day)** "grace period" for all major assignments. This means you can turn in the assignment one day late *without asking for an extension* and still receive no penalties. This does **NOT** include **reading responses**. After that 24hr period, all assignments that are turned in will be subject to a full-letter grade penalty. **If students need an extension longer than 24hrs they should email me directly, I will normally grant an extension.**

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Day	Date	Type	Assignment
Module 0: What is "Professional Responsibility"?			
M	1/24	No Reading	Introduction to Phil. 244
W	1/26	Read	"Cultural Relativism" by James Rachels
F	1/28	Read	"The Professional" edited from "What is it to be a professional?"- Martin, Clancy, et al.
Module 1: Happiness, Ethical Theory, and the Meaning of Life			
M	1/31	Read	"Nicomachean Ethics" by Aristotle [read pp. 1-9]
		Submit	Reading Quiz
W	2/2	Read	"Nicomachean Ethics" by Aristotle [pp. 10-19]
		Submit	Reading Quiz
F	2/4	Attend	No reading, discussion.
M	2/7	Read	"Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals", Immanuel Kant [edited]
		Read	[READING GUIDE] for "Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals", Jordan Baker
		Submit	Reading Quiz
W	2/9	Read	"Utilitarianism" by J.S. Mill [edited]
		Submit	Reading Quiz
F	2/11	Attend	No reading, discussion.
Module 2: Theories of Justice, Society, and Meaningful Work			
M	2/14	Read	"Justice as Fairness: A Restatement" by John Rawls. [Edited for Phil. 244]
		Submit	Reading Quiz
		Watch	David Philips' "How to Avoid Death by PowerPoint"

W	2/16	Read	"Five Faces of Oppression" by Iris Marion Young [edited]
		Submit	Reading Quiz
F	2/18	Attend	No reading, discussion.
M	2/21	Submit	First Presentation (PowerPoint Practice)
		Read	"Meaningful Work: Rethinking Professional Ethics" by Mike W. Martin [edited]
		Submit	Reading Quiz
W	2/23	Read	"Just Work" by Russell Muirhead [edited]
		Submit	Reading Quiz
F	2/25	Attend	No reading, discussion.
		Note	Ethical Theory Midterm is Available
Module 3: Client Rights and Professional Obligations			
M	2/28	Submit	Ethical Theory Exam
		Read	"What is Stakeholder Theory?" [Edited]
W	3/2	Read	Michael D. Bayles, "The Professional—Client Relationship"
		Submit	Reading Quiz
F	3/4	Attend	No reading, discussion.
Module 4: Integrity, Loyalty, and Trust			
M	3/7	Read	Chesire Calhoun, "Standing for Something"
		Submit	Reading Quiz
W	3/9	Read	Ronald Duska, "Whistleblowing and Employee Loyalty"
		Submit	Reading Quiz
F	3/11	Attend	No reading, discussion.
		Submit	Case Analysis

M	3/14	No Class, Spring Break	
W	3/16		
F	3/18		
M	3/21	Read	Sissela Bok's "The Limits of Confidentiality"
		Submit	Reading Quiz
W	3/23	Read	Alan Donagan, "Justifying Legal Practice in the Adversary System: A Look at Confidentiality"
		Submit	Reading Quiz
F	3/25	Submit	Case Analysis
		NO CLASS, Dr. Baker is Unavailable	
M	3/28	Read	Joseph Ellin, "Special Professional Morality and the Duty of Veracity"
		Submit	Reading Quiz
W	3/30	Read	Burton Leiser, "Truth in the Marketplace"
		Submit	Reading Quiz
F	4/1	Attend	1st "Case Analysis Speech" Day
Module 5: Some Professions Considered: Medicine, Business, Accounting, and Journalism			
M	4/4	Read	Samuel Gorovitz' "Good Doctors"
		Submit	Reading Quiz
W	4/6	Read	John Davis' "Conscientious Refusal and a Doctor's Right to Quit"
		Submit	Reading Quiz
F	4/8	Attend	2nd "Case Analysis Speech" Day
M	4/11	Read	Andrew West, "Multinational Tax Avoidance: Virtue Ethics and the Role of Accountants"
		Submit	Reading Quiz

W	4/13	Read	Kenneth Arrow, "Social Responsibility and Economic Efficiency"
		Submit	Reading Quiz
F	4/15	NO CLASS, SPRING RECESS	
M	4/18	Read	Carrie Figdor's "Trust Me: News, Credibility Deficits, and Balance"
		Submit	Reading Quiz
W	4/20	Read	Rachel Smolkin's "Off the Sidelines."
		Submit	Reading Quiz
F	4/22	Attend	3rd "Case Analysis Speech" Day
Module 6: Professionals and Social Ethics			
M	4/25	Submit	Final Presentation Outline
		Read	"Altruism: The Intuitive Issue," Thomas Nagel
		Submit	Reading Quiz
W	4/27	Read	"The Singer Solution to World Poverty", Peter Singer
		Submit	Reading Quiz
F	4/29	Attend	4th "Case Analysis Speech" Day
M	5/2	Read	Amy Gutmann's "Must Public Policy Be Color Blind?"
		Submit	Reading Quiz
W	5/4	Read	David Luban's "Lawyers as Upholders of Human Dignity"
		Submit	Reading Quiz
F	5/6	Attend	5th "Case Analysis Speech" Day
Final Module: The Dangers of Elitism, Arrogance, and Ignorance			
M	5/9	Read	"The Inner Ring", Clive Staples Lewis

		Submit	Final Reading Reflection
		Exam Week	Final Presentation (due during exam week, Wednesday, May 18th 8AM to 10:15AM)