CEED 5050 Ethics & Society: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives (Fall 2012)

This introductory course will present methods of ethical inquiry from different disciplines and will demonstrate how these disciplines interactively and independently apply these methods to issues of contemporary social import. Relevant moral and ethical frameworks will be introduced, along with background on issues of current social importance. Most weeks will feature a guest lecture by either a Fordham faculty member or an outside speaker and class readings will include writings relevant to social ethical issues from multiple perspectives, including economics, philosophy, theology, psychology, sociology/anthropology, healthcare and allied professions, environmental studies, business, and criminal justice. The intent of this course is to provide students with an introduction to the knowledge and critical thinking skills that will enable them to identify and understand the ethical decisions that affect the welfare of individuals and society and the integrity of their professions.

Grading:
Your grade will be made up of three components (described below):
1. Class Participation
2. Student Questions
3. Three papers

Class Attendance and Participation (10%):
Class participation is expected. Students should prepare for each class by completing the assigned readings. The course meets on Wednesdays from 6 – 8:15 p.m. Due to the once-weekly meeting schedule, attendance at each class is expected. Please contact me if you believe you will miss more than two classes during the semester.

Observations and Questions Assignments (15%):
Students must bring two written observations, thoughts or questions derived from the readings to each class. These should include contextual information from the readings and are to be submitted at the beginning of class each week. At least one should be a question raised by the readings. Questions should be submitted each week; students are allowed one “skip week” without penalty.

Outside Lecture Assignment (10%):
Each student is required to attend one ethics lecture or other scholarly ethics event (including Ethics Center Seminars) throughout the semester and write a 1-2 page reaction paper. The paper should include the relevant moral and ethical issues raised in the event and, if possible, links to class lectures or readings. Students may find a list of outside lectures by visiting the Ethics@Fordham webpage on the Center for Ethics Education's website (www.fordham.edu/ethics). These listings will also be e-mailed to you each week. Students with a legitimate reason why they cannot attend a lecture throughout the semester should speak with me to discuss an alternative assignment.

Papers:
There will be two short papers and one final paper:
a. Two five-page papers due at the end of the first and second sections.
   1. Paper 1 (15%): Write a short (5-7 pages) paper on or more of the foundational topics presented in the first five classes. Choose at least two of the areas (e.g., theology and philosophy; moral theory and professional ethics) and provide an example of how these two foundational frameworks help us to understand a particular ethical issue or principle, making some comparative comments. The
emphasize for this paper is on describing the foundational topics, rather than the
example.

2. Paper 2 (20%): Write a short (5-7 pages) paper on one or more of the fields of
study or issue presented thus far in the class. Describe the ethical and moral
questions you found most interesting. How does the foundational material
presented in the first section inform this discussion?

b. Final Paper (30%). One final twenty-page paper (which incorporates the first two
papers) will be due on Monday, December 19th (e-mailed to afried@fordham.edu no
later than 5 p.m. on the 19th). Please include only your student identification number on
the page (not your name). This paper should focus on an issue of contemporary social
import and incorporate the three components of the course (Foundations, Fields of
Study, and Applications). Students should incorporate their short papers on both
foundations of moral thought and methods of ethical discourse among various fields.
For example, students who are interested in decision-making at the end of life may write
their first short paper on philosophical and theological approaches to life, write their
second paper on relevant medical/socials issues specific to biomedical treatment and/or
research on the end of life, and then discuss how all of these disciplines/areas inform
our understanding on some of the ethical issues related to decision-making at the end of
life.

Students will receive feedback on the first two shorter papers before submitting the final
paper and are encouraged to speak with the professor regarding their paper topic ideas.
Bibliographies should demonstrate use of scholarly works from at least two of the
disciplines approached.

Assignment Due Dates and Late Policy:
Papers are due on the dates designated in the following pages. Late papers will be penalized
10 points.

Readings:
There is no textbook for the course. Readings are assigned each week in consultation with the
faculty lecturers. All readings will appear on BlackBoard or be distributed in class. Please
contact me if you experience any difficulty accessing BlackBoard.

Instructor Information:
Adam Fried, Ph.D.
Assistant Director, Center for Ethics Education
Director, Master’s in Ethics and Society Program
Dealy Hall 117A
(718) 817-0128 afried@fordham.edu
Office hours: Wednesdays 4-6 pm and by appointment

Associated Faculty:
Michael Baur, J.D., Ph.D. (Associate Professor of Philosophy and Adjunct Professor of Law):
mbaur@fordham.edu

Barbara Andolsen, Ph.D. (Professor of Theology): andolsen@fordham.edu
List of Course Meetings

1. 8/29/12  Introduction to Ethics and Society

9/5/12  NO CLASS (university operates on a “Monday Schedule”)

2. 9/12/12  Foundations in Moral Philosophy (Michael Baur, J.D., Ph.D., Fordham University, Department of Philosophy)

3. 9/19/12  Foundations in Moral Theology (Barbara Andolsen, Ph.D., Fordham University, Department of Theology)

4. 9/26/12  Foundations in Moral Psychology

5. 10/3/12  Foundations in Professional Ethics

6. 10/10/12  Foundations in the Responsible Conduct of Research
   SHORT PAPER DUE

7. 10/17/12  Ethics in Psychology

10/18/12  Natural Law Colloquium, McNally Amphitheatre, Lincoln Center Campus, 6 p.m. Luigiino Bruni, "Why Morality-Free Economic Theory Does Not Work: A Natural Law Perspective in the Wake of the Recent Financial Crisis"

8. 10/24/12  Gender, Religious Freedom and Human Rights (Evelyn Bush, Ph.D., Fordham University, Department of Sociology)

9. 10/31/12  Christian Faith and Food Economies: Reflecting on Inequality and Suffering in U.S. Food Production (Jeremy Cruz, Fordham University, Visiting Scholar, Center for Ethics Education)

10. 11/7/12  Philosophical Ethics Approaches to Health Benefit Disparities (Gerard Vong, Ph.D., Fordham University, Department of Philosophy)

11. 11/14/12  Biomedical Issues in Health Care Settings: Emerging Questions at the End of Life (Richard Stumacher, M.D., St. Barnabas Hospital)
   SHORT PAPER DUE

11/21/12  NO CLASS (university closed)

12. 11/28/12  Social Justice and Faith-based Approaches to Civic Life (Maureen O’Connell, Ph.D., Fordham University, Department of Theology)

13. 12/5/12  Catholic Social Teaching and Water Scarcity (Christiana Peppard, Ph.D., Fordham University, Department of Theology)
   1-PAGE REACTION PAPER FROM OUTSIDE LECTURE DUE

14. 12/12/12  Integration and synthesis

15. 12/19/12  STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
   FINAL PAPER DUE