DESCRIPTION: This is an introductory course in ethical issues. It is a ‘web hybrid’ course. This means that you must:
- Participate in the online portion of the course.
- Attend class once per week.
- Complete the course assignments.

This course should be of value to anyone looking to improve their reasoning about ethical debates. It will also be of value to anyone who wants to improve their thinking and writing skills.

COURSE GOALS:
i. Learn how to assess arguments in ethical debates.
ii. Improve your ability to clearly and concisely summarize others’ arguments.
iii. Learn several historically significant ethical positions.
iv. Study competing arguments in several areas of contemporary ethical interest.

Course Policies and Procedures:
Attendance: Attendance is taken, and attendance in lectures is expected. Since testable material is regularly introduced in lectures, it is impossible to miss class frequently and still do well in the course.

Late Papers: Assignments must be submitted at the beginning of the class period in which they are due for full credit. Late papers must be turned-in by the start of the next class meeting; after that they will not be accepted. All accepted late papers are penalized a flat 10%.

Make-up Work: I am willing to re-schedule assignments for individuals who have a legitimate reason for doing so. If you know you are going to miss an exam date, you must notify me at least two days in advance in order to receive a make-up. Unless you have made a prior arrangement with me, missed exams may be made up only in case of a documented emergency.

Disabilities Policy: If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify the instructors and provide certification from Disability Services (Office of Special Students Services). The Office of Special Students Services is directed by Ms. Andrea Agnew and is located in the Student Center, Room 270, Phone 460-7212.

Academic Dishonesty Policy: Academic dishonesty includes cheating on tests and homework as well as plagiarism. If you engage in academic dishonesty, I will notify you that you will receive an ‘F’ in the course. Upon being notified, you have five days to submit a written request to the department chairperson for a hearing on the matter, if you wish to have one. If no hearing request is made, or if the decision from the hearing goes against you, you will receive a course grade of ‘F’. Please see the Student Academic Conduct Policy of the University for details.

Academic Disruption Policy: Disruptive academic behavior is defined as individual or group conduct that interrupts or interferes with any educational activity or environment, infringes upon the rights and privileges of others, results in or threatens the destruction of property, and/or is otherwise prejudicial to the maintenance of order in an academic environment, such as a classroom or any setting in which formal learning is taking place. Though dependent upon the size and nature of the academic setting, disruption refers to behavior a reasonable person would view as substantially or repeatedly interfering with the conduct of an activity. Disruptive behavior may range from the mildly annoying (which should be tolerated as much as possible) to clearly disruptive, dangerous and/or violent
behavior which should never be tolerated. Incidents of academic disruption will be dealt with as they occur as per the policies and procedures set out in the Lowdown, USA Policies, Academic Disruption Policies.

Procedures for Assessment of Student Performance: Given that you adhere to the course policies, your grade will be determined on the basis of graded assignments as specified below:

Evaluation:

- Attendance/Participation: 10%
- Exams (two during the term): 15% each
- Final Exam (comprehensive): 20%
- Short Assignments (quizzes and reading summaries): 40% total

- Attendance and participation: You must attend each weekly lecture period (either on Tuesday or Thursday, depending on which you were assigned). I will take attendance by passing a sign-in sheet around in class. Your class attendance score is determined as follows:
  - 0-1 unexcused absences: 10/10
  - 2 unexcused absences: 9/10
  - 3 unexcused absences: 7/10
  - 4 unexcused absences: 5/10
  - 5 unexcused absences: 3/10
  - More than 5 unexcused absences: 0%

- Exams: The examinations will be short answer and short essay, and will be given in class.

- Short Assignments: These will be a combination of exercises. Most of these will be in-class quizzes that I will give at the start of our weekly meeting. I will explain further how these will work, but basically they will cover the online lecture materials. There will also be some in-class group exercises, and short writing assignments.

Online Lectures. Required lecture materials are available in two places online: eCollege for written lectures and related materials, and iTunesU for video lectures (I placed the video lectures on iTunesU since the bandwidth requirements made downloading videos from eCollege too slow). The written lectures at eCollege are more detailed than the video lectures; the video lectures offer summaries or other examples to help you comprehend the written lectures. So make sure to read the written lectures – don’t just rely on the video lectures.

Both eCollege and iTunesU are restricted to our course; you must be enrolled and have a JAG number and password to access our materials. The eCollege website is:

https://secure.ecollege.com/usa/index.real?action=login

The iTunesU website is:

https://jagmail.usouthal.edu/cgi-bin/itunesu/itunesu.cgi

You must download a free copy of iTunes in order to access the course videos.

Text: All of our readings are available online. at http://library.southalabama.edu/ Note that you need to have Acrobat Reader to look at or print the document online.

a. Click on "Course Reserve"
b. From the pull-down menus pick "Loomis" (Instructor) and "231: PHL" (Course). Then click "Search".
c. Click on the title you want.
The following syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in the “Announcements” section of our course, or in class.

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<td>Other Ethical Theories and Principles, Autonomy, Distributive Justice, Non-malfeasance.</td>
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<td>9. 10/17-10/23</td>
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ii. Don Marquis: “Why Abortion is Immoral”

10. 10/24-10/30  Euthanasia  Lecture 8 and Video  
Reading Summary 3  
   i. Timothy Quill: “Death and Dignity: A Case of Individualized Decision Making”
   ii. Herbert Hendin: “Selling Death and Dignity”.
   iii. Tom Beauchamp: “Justifying Physician-Assisted Deaths”
   iv. J. David Velleman: “Against the Right to Die”.

Course Drop Deadline: 10/29

11. 10/31-11/6  Punishment  Lecture 9 and Video  Short Quiz  
   i. Louis Pojman: “In Defense of the Death Penalty”
   ii. Jeffrey Reiman: “Against the Death Penalty”

12. 11/7-11/13  Corporate Responsibility  Lecture 10 and Video  Short Quiz  
   i. Milton Friedman: “The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase its Profits”
   ii. Christopher Stone: “Why shouldn’t Corporations be Socially Responsible?”

13. 11/14-11/19  Contract Obligations and Walking Away  Lecture 11 and Video  Reading Summary 4  
   i. Megan McArdle: “The New Breed of Deadbeats”
   ii. Steve R. Waldman: “Strategic Default and the Duty to Shareholders”
   iii. Replies from McArdle and Waldman

14. 11/21-11/27  Second Exam  Exam  
   No Class Thursday 11/27 (Thanksgiving)  
   All students meet Tuesday, 11/25 for Exam.

15. 11/28-12/4.  Environmental Ethics  Lecture 12 and Video  Short Quiz  
   i. Garrett Hardin: “The Tragedy of the Commons”
   ii. Terry Anderson and Donald Leal: “Free Market Environmentalism”
   iii. Mark Sagoff: “Free-Market versus Libertarian Environmentalism”

16. 12/5-12/11.  Obligations to the Poor.  Lecture 13 and Video  Short Quiz  
   i. Peter Singer “Famine, Affluence, and Morality”

Final Exam, Tuesday, Dec 14th, 1-3:00 p.m. All students meet for Final Exam.