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| New Course proposal syllabus: PHI 3655 Honors Ethics in Business, Government and Society Prof. Mark Tunick, FAU Honors College |

**Description**: The aim of the course is to address ethical issues from an interdisciplinary, liberal arts perspective. Discussion of ethical issues that arise in business, government and society will  draw on literature, film, and classic texts in philosophy that address what it means to be ethical and why one should be moral (e.g. truthful), and the question ‘What kind of conduct leads to a happy human life?’ We consider the tension between being successful in business and politics, and being moral. Specific topics may include lying, promises, corporate responsibility, cloning, journalistic ethics, the ethics of international intervention, and obligations to strangers and other species.

This course will count as a GC-Ethics course and count as an elective for Concentrations in Political Science, Law and Society, Philosophy, and for the Ethics Minor. It has no prerequisites and is a 3 credit course.  
**Note of Honors Distinction**:

This course differs substantially from a non-Honors course.   The writing component of the course will be much more demanding and the expectations for participation in class discussions will be greater than in a typical undergraduate course with a larger cap. We read original sources of texts often included in graduate seminars. Most importantly, this course will reflect the interdisciplinary nature of Honors education and will inculcate critical attitudes and skills that will teach you how to learn for yourself.  
**Readings**: Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics (2nd ed., Hackett, 0872204642), Kant's Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals (2nd ed., Hackett, 087220166X), Charles Dickens's Hard Times (Norton Critical Edition, 3rd, 0393975606), Max Weber, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (Dover Value Edition, 048642703X) all are available for purchase at the bookstore. Other readings are available online. You are responsible for ALL assigned readings. Note that in some cases I might, with due notice, ask students to be accountable for some of the recommended reading, depending on how class discussions proceed.   
**Requirements**: Grading will be based on **three short papers** of 4-5 pages each (20% each=60%), a series of quizzes (20%), and a [group research project](http://wise.fau.edu/%7Etunick/courses/ids/ethics_bgs/group_project.html)/presentation (20%). Because class participation is so important, each unexcused absence above 3 will result in a 1/3 letter grade reduction for the course. Be sure to bring to each class the reading for that day's class and take notes on the readings. Please prepare a question for class discussion of each daily reading; base your question on the citation of a specific passage.   
**Office Hours**: Before class, or drop by HC 133--no appointment is needed. I can also be reached by phone (799-8670), or email ([tunick@fau.edu](mailto:%20tunick@fau.edu)).  
**Honor Code**: Students are expected to adhere to the honor code, available at <http://www.fau.edu/honors/academics/honor-code.php>  
**Class meets**: tba.

**I. Ethical frameworks**

1/12. Introduction.   
    Reading: Bowen McCoy, Parable of the Sadhu, Harvard Business Review, May-June 1997 (BB).   
  
1/14. Citizen Kane (Meet in AD 119--Auditorium, film begins promptly at 4pm. Film lasts 119 minutes)  
  
1/19, 1/21. Ethical frameworks I: Aristotle and the life worth living.   
    Reading: Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics: Book 1: chapters 1-5, 7-10; Book 2: 1-2, 4, 6, 9; Book 3: 1-2, 5, 10-11; Book 4: 8; Book 6: 3-8, 12-13; Book 8: 1-4, 8 (paragraph 3 only); Book 9: 5-6, 10-12; Book 10: 6-9  
For those interested: Aristotle, Politics, Book 1: 1-9, 13; Book 2: 1-5, 7-8; Book 3: 1, 4-13, 18; Book 4: 1-2, 4, 11; Book 5: 1-4, 8-9, 11; Book 6: 2-4; Book 7: 1-4, 8-9, 13-14, 16--available [via Perseus collection](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/) (as is a version of Aristotle's Ethics).   
Films on the life worth living: Kurosawa's *Ikiru*, Fellini's *La Dolce Vita*, *La Strad*a; Capra's *You Can't Take it With You*; *Lost in Translation*; *Woman in the Dunes*.

1/26. Ethical frameworks II: Kant   
Kant, Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals

1/28. Kant (continued)   
Kant, 'On a supposed right to lie' (included in Grounding); Hegel, Philosophical Propaedeutic, 38-52 (BB)   
**Paper one due.**

2/2. Ethical frameworks III: Utilitarianism   
Bentham, Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation: chapters 1-2, 4-5, 10 (Pars. 10-11, 16-22, 29, 33-35), 11 (BB).

Recommended: Bentham, Pannomial Fragments, chapter 4 (BB); Nussbaum, "Mill between Aristotle and Bentham"(BB).   
For those interested: The complete *Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation* is available [online](http://oll.libertyfund.org/Intros/Bentham.php).

2/4. Utilitarianism (continued)   
John Harris, 'The Survival Lottery', Philosophy 50:81-7 (1975)(BB)

2/9. Ethical frameworks IV: Contractarianism  
John Rawls, Theory of Justice: pp. 3-7, 10-24, 52-55, 59-68, 103, 106-23, 285-90, 374-80, 386-91, 441-9 (BB).  
For those interested: Kant, 'What is Enlightenment?' available [online](http://eserver.org/philosophy/kant/what-is-enlightenment.txt)

**II. Applications (1)**

2/11. Animal rights  
Peter Singer, 'All Animals are Equal' (BB); Carl Cohen, ‘The Case for the Use of Animals in Biomedical Research' (BB)  
For those interested: Martha Nussbaum, "Animal Rights: The Need for a Theoretical Basis" (book review), 114 Harvard Law Review 1506 (2001)(BB)

2/16. Animal Rights  
Rdg: Colin McGinn, 'Animal Rights'(BB); Michael Pollan, "An Animal's Place," The New York Times Magazine, November 10, 2002, [**online**](http://www.nehbc.org/pollan2.html)

III. Is capitalism just? Can a capitalist be moral?

2/18. Is Wal-Mart Good for America?   
Film: The High Cost of Low Price  
Rdg: Jay Nordlinger, "The New Colossus," National Review April 19, 2004 (BB); and John Cavanaugh and Sara Anderson, [**“Ten Reasons Why the Wal-Mart Pundits are Wrong,"**](http://www.thenation.com/doc/20061016/wal_mart) The Nation (29 September 2006)  
Recommended: [**Frontline: Is Wal-Mart Good for America?**](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/walmart/view/)

2/23. In Defense of Capitalism  
Rdg: Ludwig von Mises, "Liberty and Property," [**online**](http://mises.org/books/liberty_and_property.pdf); W.W. Rostow, The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1960), Chapter 2, "The Five Stages of Growth--A Summary"(BB)  
Recommended: Adam Smith, Wealth of Nations (1776), 1:1, 1:2, 4:2 (available [**online**](http://www.econlib.org/LIBRARY/Smith/smWN.html)); Andrew Carnegie, Wealth (1889), *North American Review* 391: 653-64 (June 1889)(BB)  
  
2/25. Marxian critique of capitalism  
Rdg: Marx and Engels, [**Communist Manifesto**](http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/index.htm), parts 1 and 2; [**"Estranged Labor"**](http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1844/manuscripts/labour.htm) from Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts  
Film: Harlan County, U.S.A. (Criterion)--screening to be scheduled.

3/2. Weber's take on capitalism   
Rdg: Max Weber, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, chapters I-III, V (pp. 35-92, 155-83)  
  
Recommended: Monzer Kahf, "Methodology of Islamic Economics," [**online**](http://monzer.kahf.com/papers/english/methodology_malaysia.pdf); Timur Kuran, "Behavioral Norms in the Islamic Doctrine of Economics," Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization 4:353-79 (1983)(BB); E. F. Schumacher, "[**Buddhist Economics" (online)**](http://www.smallisbeautiful.org/buddhist_economics/english.html)  
For those interested: "Putting Buddhism to Work" (available [online](http://wise.fau.edu/%7Etunick/courses/ids/ethics_bgs/budwork.html)); **"**Islamic Economics: The Emergence of a New Paradigm” John R. Presley and John G. Sessions [The Economic Journal](http://www.jstor.org.ezproxy.fau.edu/action/showPublication?journalCode=economicj), Vol. 104, No. 424 (May, 1994), pp. 584-596; Spencer, ["Man versus the State"](http://www.econlib.org/library/LFBooks/Spencer/spnMvS.html); Herbert Spencer, "Progress, its Law and Cause" (1857), available [online](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/spencer-darwin.html)  
**Paper 2 due.**

3/4. The ethical capitalist   
Mother Jones' story on the Ford Pinto case: "Pinto Madness," available [**online**](http://motherjones.com/politics/1977/09/pinto-madness); Milton Friedman, *"*The social responsibility of business is to increase its profits"(BB)

3/9, 3/11 NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK

3/16, 3/18. Capitalism and the moral life   
Rdg: Charles Dickens, Hard Times   
Recommended Film: Preston Sturges' Sullivan's Travels (1941), dvd on reserve in the library

Recommended reading: The following essays in the Norton Critical Edition of Hard Times: Essays on Industrialism, pp. 291-312; Essays on Education, pp. 331-36; Essays on Utilitarianism and the Science of Political Economy, pp. 337-51; and Nussbaum, "Literary Imagination in Public Life," pp. 429-39.   
For those interested: Melville, [Bartleby](http://www.bartleby.com/129/); Films:  [American Madness (1932)](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0022626/), [Hud (1963)](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0057163/), [Grand Hotel (1932)](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0022958/), [The Last Laugh (1922)](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0013304/), [Lost Horizon (1937)](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0029162/), [The Man in the White Suit (1951)](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0044876/), [The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit (1956)](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0049474/), [Meet John Doe (1941)](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0033891/), [Mr. Deeds Goes to Town (1936)](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0027996/), [On the Waterfront (1954)](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0047296/), [Matewan (1987)](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0093509/).

**IV. Applications (2)**

3/23. Designer Babies and the Ethics of Cloning   
Rdg: "Designer Babies: Choosing our children's genes," www.thelancet.com vol.372:1294 (Oct. 11, 2008)(BB); Michael Sandel, "The Problem with Genetic Engineering," Tikkun Sept/Oct 2007 (BB); Mary Warnock, "What is Natural? And Should we Care?" Philosophy 78(306):445-59 (Oct. 2003)(BB).  
  
3/25. Promising (1)   
Rdg: William Godwin, An Enquiry Concerning Political Justice, bk. 3, ch. 3, available [**online**](http://web.bilkent.edu.tr/Online/www.english.upenn.edu/jlynch/Frank/Godwin/pj33.html); Hume, A Treatise on Human Nature, Book III, part II, section 5: 'Of the obligation of promises', [**online**](http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/h/hume/david/h92t/B3.2.5.html) ; Korn and Korn, 'Where People Don't Promise', Ethics 93:445-50 (1983)(BB)

3/30. Promising (2)  
Rdg: Thomas Scanlon, 'Promises and Practices', Philosophy and Public Affairs 19:199-226 (Summer 1990)(BB)

4/1. The obligation to tell the truth   
Plaintiff's brief, footnote 3, from *Laidlaw v. Organ,* 2 Wheat (15 U.S.) 178 (1817)(BB); Albert Carr, *Is Business Bluffing Ethical?* (BB); Thomas Carson, "Second Thoughts about Bluffing" (BB)  
Recommended: Obde v. Schlemeyer, 353 P 2d 672 (1960)(BB); Swinton v. Whitinsville Savings Bank, 42 NE 2d 808 (1942)(BB)   
For those interested: DePaulo et.al., "Lying in Everyday Life," Journal of Personality and Social Psychology," 70(5):979-95 (1996); Cohen v. Cowles Media Co., 501 US 663 (1991)(re. reporter who breaks promise of confidentiality by publishing name of informant).

4/6.  The Ethics of Reality TV: the case of "To Catch a Predator"  
Episodes of 'To Catch a Predator': [Petaluma](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15170759/) (select 'the cancer doctor'); [Flagler Beach](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17370300/) (select '3. Excuses to Dateline, police' in 'As Seen on the Broadcast' box; also, 'Highlights, Memorable characters' in 'Exclusive Webisodes' box). Videos will play after brief advertisement.   
Rdg: Conradt v. NBC Universal, 536 F. Supp. 2d 380 (2008)(BB); Boggess, "Attempted Enticement of a Minor: No Place for Pedophiles to Hide," 72 Mo.L.Rev. 909 (Summer 2007), excerpts (BB); Grigoriadis, "The New American Witch Hunt," Rolling Stone 1032:64-71 (August 9, 2007)(BB); Luke Dittrich, "Tonight on Dateline This Man Will Die," Esquire 148(3):233-44 (Sept. 2007)(BB)  
Recommended: Gray Cavender, "In Search of Community on Reality TV," in Holmes and Jermyn, eds., Understanding Reality Television (2004), 154-72 (BB); Steven Kohm, "Naming, shaming, and criminal justice: Mass-mediated humiliation as entertainment and punishment," Crime, Media, Culture 5(2):188-205 (2009), [**online**](http://cmc.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/5/2/188); Bartel v. NBC, 543 F. 3d 901 (2008)

4/8. Is journalistic deception justified?   
Rdg:Smith and Goodwin, "Deception," ch. 10 in Groping for Ethics in Journalism (1999)(BB); Desnick v. ABC, 44 F. 3d 1345 (7th Cir. 1995)(BB).  
Recommended: Food Lion v. ABC, 964 F. Supp. 956 (1997); and 194 F. 3d 505 (1999); Louis Hodges, "Undercover, masquerading, surreptitious taping," Journal of Mass Media Ethics 3(2):26-36 (Fall 1988); Robert Lissit, "Gotcha," American Journalism Review (March 1995); [PBS Frontline Ethical guidelines](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/us/guidelines.html); [PBS Frontline special on sex slaves](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/slaves/)

4/13. Journalistic Ethics and the clash between values: truth vs. privacy   
Rdg: J.S. Mill, On Liberty ch. 2 (BB); Florida Star v. B.J.F., 491 US 524 (1989)(BB).  
Recommended: Amy Gajda, "Judging Journalism: The Turn Toward Privacy and Judicial Regulation of the Press," 97 Cal. L. Rev. 1039 (2009), at [**westlaw**](http://www.library.fau.edu/ecollect/dbw.htm) (previous version is [**online**](http://law.bepress.com/uiuclwps/papers/art85/)).

4/15. Obligations to strangers and the ethics of international affairs   
Rdg: Nussbaum, "Duties of Justice, Duties of Material Aid: Cicero's Problematic Legacy," Journal of Political Philosophy 8(2):176-206 (2000)(BB)  
Recommended: [**Frontline: Sick around the world**](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/sickaroundtheworld/view/?utm_campaign=homepage&utm_medium=proglist&utm_source=proglist)  
For those interested: Walzer, "Humanitarian Intervention" (BB); [**Frontline: Obama's War**](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/obamaswar/view/?utm_campaign=homepage&utm_medium=proglist&utm_source=proglist)

4/20. Ethics in a multicultural world  
Rdg: Camus, "The Guest"(BB); Margaret Talbot, “Baghdad on the Plains,” New Republic (August 11, 1997)(BB)

4/22, 4/27. Group presentations  **Paper 3 due.**

Additional notes:  
POLICY ON ACCOMMODATIONS: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require reasonable accommodations to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) -- in Boca Raton, SU 131 (561-297-3880); in Davie, LA 131 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter and all Northern Campuses, SR 111F (561-799-8585) – and follow all SAS procedures.

Academic Integrity Policy:Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001 and <http://www.fau.edu/divdept/honcol/students/honorcode.html>

Classroom Etiquette Policy: In order to enhance and maintain a productive atmosphere for education, personal communication devices, such as cellular telephones and pagers, are to be disabled in class sessions.

Makeup exams only with doctor's note. See FAU catalog for university policy on incompletes.