El Paso Community College
Syllabus
Instructor's Course Requirements

I. Course Number and Instructor Information

PHILOSOPHY 2306 – 31323: Ethics, Rio Grande,

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Robert Ferrell

CAMPUS: Rio Grande

OFFICE LOCATION: B-402/RG

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

TELEPHONE: (915) 831–4184

II. Text and Materials


Additional material will consist of class handouts and items on reserve in the library. There are multiple resources in the reference section of the library, such as the Macmillan Encyclopedia of Philosophy, dictionaries of philosophy, Bertrand Russell's History of Western Philosophy and others.

III. Course Requirements

There will be four examinations and a Final. These exams will be of the essay form generally, with additional short answer and definition questions. A term paper will be due the last week before finals week. It should follow the APA standard and be 5 to 8 pages in length. The topic, of course, should have to due with ethical philosophy and its problems. Feel free to discuss the topic selection in class or in conference. In addition, the student is required to participate in a collaborative learning experience in which a group project results in class presentations. Each of the exams will be worth 15% of the total grade. The final exam will be worth 20%. The term paper will count for 10% of the total grade. The group presentation will be worth 05 % extra credit. Short quizzes will be introduced to encourage the student's being current on the assigned reading. These scores, along with class participation, will make up the final 05% of the final grade. The final exam will be comprehensive.

Grading Scale:
100 – 90 = A  
89 – 80 = B  
79 – 70 = C  
69 – 60 + D  
59 – 0 = F
There will be no retakes on exams or quizzes. Makeup exams will be allowed only when a good reason for missing the scheduled exam can be confirmed by the instructor. Documentation that can be checked will be required for a makeup, and the makeup will be more difficult than the original exam. It is the student's responsibility to request a makeup exam prior to the date of the scheduled exam. Ignorance of the scheduled exam date is never acceptable for missing any exam. No make ups will be given on quizzes, since that would defeat their purpose; i.e., to encourage the student to stay current in the readings. Plagiarism will not be permitted. Steps are being taken to expel and even to prosecute students found to have committed this offense.

IV. Instructor's Policies

A. Attendance and Drops

Students are required to attend classes regularly. A record of class attendance will be kept. It is the student's responsibility to consult with the instructor regarding excused absences. The instructor will allow three absences (based on a 50 minute class period) before giving serious consideration to dropping the student. A student can be dropped for excessive absences insofar as these indicate a failure in course pursuit. On the other hand, if the student has decided to drop the course, for whatever reason, it is his or her responsibility to inform the instructor and to turn in a drop form. The student should not assume that the instructor would automatically drop him or her before the drop deadline. Instructors are authorized to deal appropriately with students who are persistently late to class. THE ATTENDANCE POLICY MUST BE APPLIED CONSISTENTLY AND FAIRLY. EVEN IF YOUR GRADE AVERAGE IS GOOD, YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO ATTEND CLASSES REGULARLY. AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE PROCESS OF LEARNING IS THE QUESTION AND ANSWER DIALOGUE THAT TAKES PLACE IN CLASS.

B. Classroom Decorum

The purpose of a course in philosophy is to encourage student interest. This goal is completely frustrated by diversions. Students constantly coming and going, talking in small groups, allowing cell phones and beepers to go off, and other such distractions prevent the necessary attention to the subject and will not be tolerated by students who wish to fulfill their educational goals. Remember that class participation, whether positive or negative, is a part of your grade, and, please, be considerate of your fellow students.

V. Calendar:

This calendar may be subject to adjustment and changes. The test dates are tentative, and any changes will be announced.

Week One:  Chapter One : Warrior ethics to Religion; Idealism pp. 3-22
Overview and introduction: Theories, principles, codes.
Chapter Two: Theory; Normative and non-normative; Critical thinking
Relativism: Subjective and Cultural; Claims and Arguments pp. 23-43
Chapter Three: Theory analyzed and applied, fundamental principles.
Moral Reasoning and Evaluation; Free will vs. Determinism pp. 43 – 65

Test One:

Two: Religion; God’s Will and Divine Command
The real idea of life is about celebrating the gift we have been given if we live in vision; that is, as poets/human beings; our lives are not easier but harder. There is no reward for shining brightly, only the brightness itself. Once we accept the concept that life does not owe us anything, we owe it to life to live to our fullest potential every day we live; no matter what we get in return.

William Parker, jazz musician