PHI 2624 – Ethics in Popular Culture and Entertainment – Online
Fall 2014 –Section 910

INSTRUCTOR:

Name: Nicholas Manias, Ed. D.
Contact Information: 727.791.2730 – manias.nicholas@spcollege.edu (use ANGEL for all contact and assignments.
Office and Online Chat Hours: Please see instructor link below for office hours.
Office Location: ES 213 J – on the Clearwater campus
Instructor Web Page: http://www.spcollege.edu/instructors/id/105

I am glad you are here!

Welcome to the wonderful world of ethics. I am excited for you that you have decided to enroll in this course. I believe this course will open your eyes to a wide range of topics. I am also excited that you have decided to enroll/stay enrolled in college. A college degree is something that someone can never take away from you, it is proof that you complete what you start and it opens many doors for you. Please let me know how I can help you!

College Helpdesk # 341-4357 - for ALL computer problems with ANGEL

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT:

Dean: Dr. Susan Demers
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ECampus Web Page Link: www.appliedethicsinstitute.org

COURSE INFORMATION:

Prerequisite: PHI 1600, PHI 1602H, PHI 1631, PHI 2635 or PHI 2649 or permission of program director. This course is a study of the fundamental concepts of classical and modern approaches to moral reasoning as identified in various forms of popular culture and entertainment. A review of fundamental ethical definitions and concepts, elements of critical thinking and logic, and classical and contemporary approaches to moral reasoning will precede the examination and analysis of selected forms of popular culture and entertainment. The analysis phase will consist of an examination of the selected materials with a view to identifying the presence of issues and dilemmas of moral significance. Fictional and historical characters will then be assessed as to their critical thinking processes and their approaches to the resolution of moral dilemmas. 47 contact hours.

Major Learning Outcomes/Objectives:

1. The student will demonstrate knowledge of fundamental concepts and definitions in the field of ethics as these are illustrated in selected forms of popular culture and entertainment.

2. The student will apply theories of moral development as these are illustrated in selected forms of popular culture and entertainment.

3. The student will apply critical thinking and logic as these are illustrated in selected forms of popular culture and entertainment.

4. The student will demonstrate knowledge of moral reasoning as these are illustrated in selected forms of popular culture and entertainment.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK & OTHER RESOURCE INFORMATION:
Baker, Emily and Richardson, Michael L., Ethics Applied, Edition 3.0, Pearson Education.
or Ethics Applied, Edition 4.0, Pearson Education, 2004,
or Ethics Applied, Edition 5.0, Pearson Education, 2006
or Ethics Applied, Edition 6.0, Pearson Education, 2009
or Ethics Applied, Edition 6.5, Pearson Education, 2011
or Ethics Applied, Edition 7.0, Pearson Education, 2013
If you do not have a book, <u>do not buy a new one,</u> speak to me and we will figure something out. For example you can find these old editions online for a few dollars.

Most of you should have the book from the prior ethics class since you couldn't sell it back you can use either version of the book.
Other Requirements: *Students will be required to rent/borrow videos throughout the semester that they will be required to watch at home. There may be additional expenses incurred due to this requirement.*

Movies/television shows we will watch this semester. Full descriptions are listed in the units on the lessons page.
1. Inception
2 Wag the Dog
3. One of the following (Jacob's Ladder, 12 Monkeys, Memento, Total Recall, or The Matrix)
4. The Count of Monte Cristo or Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory
5. The Simpsons (Watch any 3 TV episodes)
6. In Time
7. Groundhog Day
8. Catfish the television series (Watch any episode)
9. House (Watch any episode)
10. Star Trek Into Darkness
11. Schindler's List

You should already start thinking about how you will acquire/watch these items. Some of the television episodes you will be able to catch in syndication on all kinds of cable channels.

Library: http://www.spcollege.edu/libraries/

IMPORTANT DATES:

Dates: http://www.spcollege.edu/calendar/
Financial Aid: http://www.spcollege.edu/getfunds/

ATTENDANCE:

To be counted as "present" for a week you must have completed all of the work corresponding with a particular week. If you do not do all of the work in the unit(s) you will be considered "absent". If this occurs during the first two weeks you will be withdrawn by the college for "non-attendance."
If this occurs after the first two weeks of the semester and before the 60% point in the semester you will be marked as "non participatory" and will be withdrawn with a WF.
Because this class is an online class and assignments are open for weeks and days rather than days and hours, I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. For this class, all absences count the same.
I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences for most units you will have windows of times (usually weeks) to get the work done.

If you do not have regular internet access you should probably not take this ONLINE class. If you happen to lose internet access you can always come to any of the SPC campuses and use the computers for free. If you live too far away from the campus to do that, I would recommend that you try a public library. Regardless, it is your responsibility to stay connected.

GRADING:
 The grading scale is as follows:
  A - 1000 - 900 points (90-100 %)
  B – 899 - 800 points (80-89 %)
  C - 799- 700 points (70-79 %)
  D - 699 - 600 points (60-69%)

Grades in ANGEL: I use ANGEL's gradebook as the official gradebook for the course. I will send out emails when I have graded the work and updated scores. Please check your grades regularly and email me with questions or concerns as early as you notice them.

Course Schedule

 All units will close at **6pm on the last date listed below**. Work submitted after that time will not be accepted. **All work regardless of due date or day, will be due at 6pm of the date listed. This includes papers, exams, etc.**

Availability of Course Content: Course lessons will be open and close based on the schedule in the syllabus. All units will close at **6pm on the last date listed below**. Work submitted after that time will not be accepted. **All work regardless of due date or day, will be due at 6pm of the date listed. This includes papers, exams, etc.**

Late work

An important note… Because this is an online class, there is great flexibility for the student. However, it is important that students note from the beginning **that I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK.** Almost all units and work will be available from the start of the semester until the due dates listed in the syllabus. Because you will have so much time to work on these units late work is not accepted for any reason. In other words…..work ahead. **Computer problems, problems with ANGEL, problems with**

"the internet," etc. will not allow for work to be turned in late. The lesson here is to do the work early so you don't run into problems.

I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences for most units you will have windows of times (usually weeks) to get the work done.

Course Schedule: **All assignments are due no later than 6pm on the date listed**

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Remember everything is due at 6pm on the last date listed for that unit and once a unit closes you can't make up the work – no matter what. I've given you at least 3 weeks for each unit. This should give you plenty of time to acquire and watch what you need to watch. This way you have no excuse about not having enough time.

All of the lesson folders are open from the first day of the semester and will close on the dates listed below.

Due at 6pm on:

8/18 – 9/7	Unit 1 – Perception and Reality – Inception
8/18 – 9/14	Unit 2 – Construction of Reality – Wag the Dog
8/18 – 9/21	Unit 3 – Perception and Reality – Pick one of four
8/18 – 9/28	Unit 4 – Virtues and Vices - Count of Monte Cristo **OR** Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory (**1971**)
8/18 – 10/5	Unit 5 – Virtue and Vices – The Simpsons
8/18 – 10/12	Unit 6 – Music – Theme Song
8/18 – 10/19	Unit 7 – Economic Justice – In Time
8/18 – 10/26	Unit 8 – The Purpose of Man – Groundhog Day
8/18 – 11/3	Unit 9 - Tech Ethics in 21st Century – Catfish the television show

8/18 – 11/10	Unit 10 – Moral Issues – House
8/18 – 11/17	Unit 11 – Moral Issues – Star Trek Into Darkness
8/18 – 11/24	Unit 12 – Morality – Schindler's List
8/18 – 11/30	Extra Credit
8/18 – 12/7	Unit 13 – Application Project (Final Exam) Pick something we did not cover this semester

All assignments are due no later than 6pm on the date listed

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Assignments

How to submit assignments:

We will use drop boxes in this class. To submit the assignments properly in the appropriate **drop box** please **(1) copy and paste your assignment, (2) attach you assignment as a .doc, .docx, .pdf, or .rtf file and (3) submit the work in the corresponding turnitin.com drop box.** *To receive credit for an assignment it must be submitted in the correct format and on time assignments submitted on time but in a format that is incorrect will not be accepted. It is the student's responsibility to go back and check the drop box after the work has been submitted.* **If the work is not submitted correctly (missing copy and paste and/or missing the attachment) it is because the student failed to follow directions and follow-up on his or her work. You must take responsibility for your work and your grade.**

We will be using turnitin.com this semester for writing assignments. There will be separate turnitin drop boxes for each assignment, students will be required to submit their assignments to turnitin for the sole purpose of generating an originality report. Students who do not want to use turnitin must arrange a meeting with the instructor to discuss alternative methods the demonstrate originality of assignments.

I apologize for making you submit all of your work to turnitin boxes. I know it is extra work and insulting. Last year we offered this class online for the first time in the history

of SPC. (I wrote this class some time ago and wrote the online version.) The one time this class was offered before online 10% of the class caught cheating - and that was just me using Google to catch them. So, I decided if we ever offered this class online we would have to use turnitin for all assignments. The best advice I can give you is to not even look for things online to help you with your assignments. This class is not that tough, please don't cheat, or try to cheat. If I catch you I will try my best to get you thrown out of school - if you are going to cheat in a class this easy you don't need to have a college degree. I'm sorry again for seeming so negative - last year's experience is still fresh in my mind.

1.   Notes - (250 points total): Students will be responsible to view different movies throughout the semester. When viewing these movies the students are to take notes as directed by the instructor and be prepared to discuss the movie. Specific instructions will be located in the unit folders.

2.   Drop Box writings (400 points) – students will be required to watch or listen to a form of popular culture and then write about it and submit the writing in the drop box. Specific instructions will be located in the unit folders.

3.   Music presentation (50 points): Students will be required to find the song and the lyrics to their theme song. Students will be required to provide links to the music and the lyrics. Students will have to answer a series of short questions about the song and the experience choosing the song. Specific instructions will be located in the unit folders.

4.   Discussion Forum writings/responses (175 points): Students will be required to post an original response to questions posed by the instructor on specific discussion forums. Students will also be required to post thoughtful responses to other classmates. Specific instructions will be located in the unit folders.

5.   Application Project – (a.k.a. Final Exam) (150 points): Students will be required to watch a movie or television episode and deconstruct it. Specific instructions will be located in the unit folders.

Special note: Within this class we will be viewing and listening to different types of popular culture. Some of this media may have violence or language that some may perceive as offensive. I will warn you prior to viewing or listening to these media. Please make sure to tell me if you do not feel comfortable viewing or listening to such media, this way we can set up an alternative assignment so you do not lose points. In addition, we may watch movies or portions of movies that are rated "R" this means you must be of the proper legal age to do so. Students under this age must have prior parental written consent in order to attend this class. If you do not want to view these selected items you may notify the instructor ahead of time so that he may come up with another assignment for you so you will not lose credit.

STUDENTS' EXPECTATIONS AND INSTRUCTOR'S EXPECTATIONS

Online /Student Conduct

http://www.spcollege.edu/ecampus/help/conduct.htm

Online Student, Faculty and Staff Expectations and Performance Targets

Academic Honesty/Cheating/Plagiarism*: To put it plainly, this is an ethics course and cheating of any kind cannot be tolerated. Cheating, whether on exams or papers, is an attempt to get a grade without learning. It violates the rights of your fellow students who do not cheat. Cheating defeats your purpose for being in school and hurts you in the long run. If a student is caught cheating or plagiarizing he/she will receive an **"F"** in the class and be reported to the administration upon the **FIRST INFRACTION***

STUDENT SURVEY OF INSTRUCTION:

The student survey of instruction is administered in courses each semester. It is designed to improve the quality of instruction at St. Petersburg College. All student responses are confidential and anonymous and will be used solely for the purpose of performance improvement.