

# Ethics Syllabus: Spring 2009

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## Contacting Instructor

Instructor	<a href="#"><u>Louise N. Walkup</u></a>
E-mail	<a href="mailto:Lnwalkup@SBCGlobal.net"><u>Lnwalkup@SBCGlobal.net</u></a> Include "Ethics" & your name in subject line
Snail Mail	Three Rivers Community College 574 New London Turnpike Norwich New London Turnpike Norwich, CT 06360
URL Homepage	<a href="http://lnwalkup.googlepages.com/"><u>http://lnwalkup.googlepages.com/</u></a>
Office Hours	Before & after each class & by appointment.

**Quote for the Semester:** The love of study, a passion which derives fresh vigor from enjoyment, supplies each day and hour with a perpetual source of independent and rational pleasure. Gibbon 1737-1794

## Course Number & Specifics

Course #	K111/10599
Course Section	T02
Room	<b>Thames Campus Room E221</b> Tuesdays 2:00 to 4:45 PM
Semester	Spring 2009

## Attendance Policy

Attendance is essential to success in Ethics. [Your input shapes the quality of each class meeting.](#) [Your attendance is obviously expected, as this course cannot be successful without it.](#) During class students complete self-assessments, view topical videos and DVDs, listen to guest speakers, present oral reports, and engage in group discussions and interactive case studies that collectively serve to develop a critical understanding of ethical issues.

Tests cover more than assigned text readings. Tests cover everything presented in class: current events, educational videos and DVDs, handouts, discussions, lectures, and guest speaker information.

If you miss a class, it is **YOUR** responsibility to find out what transpired during the class. I suggest you contact a reliable classmate or contact me [via email \(LNWalkup@sbcglobal.net\)](mailto:LNWalkup@sbcglobal.net)

If you are absent on a day that a paper is due, mail it to me at Three Rivers. The address is on the cover page of this syllabus. The envelope must be postmarked by the due date of the paper or points will be deducted for lateness. I do not like emailed papers, but in extreme circumstances, I may accept such submissions; however, the burden of proof of a timely submission falls on the shoulders of the student.

There are only three major tests throughout the semester. You are **expected to be present** on test dates. If you are absent on a test date, contact me **prior** to the test to request the opportunity of taking a makeup on the last day of class. I will decide whether to allow you to take a makeup. Absences are not taken lightly. Makeups are generally harder than the original exam, since you have had extra time to prepare.

[Absences adversely affect your grade.](#) Part of your grade is based on participation and in-class assignments and projects... . Promptness and duration of stay are noted. [If you miss more than 6 hours of class, regardless of the nature of the absences, you risk failure of or withdrawal from the course.](#)

## Cancellation Policy

[Read College Web Page http://www.trcc.comnet.edu/Gen\\_Info/TRCCWeatherProcedures.htm](http://www.trcc.comnet.edu/Gen_Info/TRCCWeatherProcedures.htm) for the college class cancellation policy.

Ethics students will be notified if I cancel class via email. In addition, I will place a notice on my home page <http://lnwalkup.googlepages.com/> In my 27 years of teaching I've only cancelled two classes

## Classroom Policy



I have only two rules: **R & R (Responsibility & Respect)**

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I respect you and expect respect from you.

Being a mature college student entails responsibility. This means you are responsible for yourself, your education, your assignments, your behavior, your attitude, and your timeliness, your contributions to the classroom atmosphere.

Responsible students are generally

- **Prompt:** They avoid coming to class late. The class starting time is not a "suggested" started time. Stragglers distract from opening lectures. Students must stay for the entire duration of the class.

- **Attentive:** They pay close attention to their classmates while they are speaking. They are not running their own private conversation. They are objective, open-minded, and tolerant of ideas, especially those that seem opposed to their own point of view. Federal Express was considered a dumb idea when presented as a business project in a college class. They are not crunching on noisy chips or walking to the trash can to dispose of empty cups and trash. They are not nonchalantly thumbing through a magazine or doing other assignments.

The **ringers on their cell phones are off**, unless there are extenuating circumstances and have cleared it with me. Should your phone go off, you are expected to adhere to the “donut clause”: to bring doughnuts, munchkins or a snack for the class the following week.

- **Prepared:** They are prepared for active discussions. Reading and homework assignments are essential background for in-class assignments and discussions. We must recognize that a thoughtful question is at least as valuable as a conclusive response. Prepared students may bring in current event articles for discussion.
- **Supportive:** People are sensitive and anxious about oral and written communication. Support, encouragement and expressions of appreciation play an important role in teamwork while critical thinking skills. . Strive to find the strengths in your classmates’ work.
- **Contributors to a positive classroom atmosphere:** The quality of discussion depends on you. If you listen carefully, find something of value, and respond enthusiastically, you will help make the class an enjoyable and rewarding experience for everyone. Don't talk while classmates are talking or this will negatively affect your class participation/contribution grade.

## **Course Description**

Covers the fundamentals of ethics, including an introduction to the origins and nature of moral right and responsibility. Students will analyze and formulate positions on contemporary ethical issues.

## **Disabilities Statement**

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact the disabilities Counseling Service. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the counselor as soon as possible. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from the Disabilities Counselor.

Your student handbook ([http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Stu\\_Programs/TRCC-StudentHandbook.pdf](http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Stu_Programs/TRCC-StudentHandbook.pdf)) provides the following disabilities information:

Students with a documented disability are provided supportive services and accommodations to assist them with their academic objectives. Services are strictly confidential. Disability services may include: individualized accommodations, advising, advocacy, counseling, technical assistance and referral information. Students with learning disabilities or attention deficit disorder contact Chris Scarborough at 860.892.5751 or by email at [cscarborough@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:cscarborough@trcc.commnet.edu). Students with a physical, medical or psychiatric disability contact Matt Liscum at 860.383.5240 or by email at [mliscum@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:mliscum@trcc.commnet.edu) or Judy Hilburger at 860.892.5744 or by email [jhilburger@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:jhilburger@trcc.commnet.edu).

## **Evaluation Criteria**

Grading is based on the criteria established in the Three Rivers College catalog.

You will receive grades on three exams; one paper and oral presentation requiring ethical analysis and reflection; and participation.

Keep a copy of ALL your work. If ever anything is "missing," the burden of proof is on you.

The percentage of the final grade resulting from each of these will be determined at our first meeting.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Grading</b>
Exam # 1	20 % of grade
Exam # 2	20% of grade
Exam # 3	20% of grade
Paper/project	20% of grade
Oral Report	Late papers will incur a 10-point deduction each week
<u>Class work/projects</u> <u>and Participation</u>	20% of grade
<u>Extra Credit</u>	3 points for exemplary contributions to the class (See below)
Optional Cumulative Final	May be substituted for Exam 1, 2, or 3

**Grades will conform to the following numerical ranges:**

94-100	A		74-76	C
90-93	A-		70-73	C-
87-89	B+		67-69	D+
84-86	B		64-66	D
80-83	B-		60-63	D-
77-79	C+		below 60	F

## **Class Participation Points:**

As dialogue is critical in philosophy courses, your participation grade will reflect your contributions to the class. Students receiving an A for participation will meet the following requirements:

1. Attend all classes punctually and remain for the duration of class sessions, contributing your insights.
2. Demonstrate evidence of consistent prior reading and thought.
3. Participate actively in classroom dialogue.
4. Present summaries to the class of small group discussion and activities.

Note: When students are absent from a class, a zero is earned for class participation for that particular day.

## **Extra Credit Points**

In addition, you will have the opportunity to increase your final numerical average by a maximum of three points if you contribute to the class in an **exemplary** manner. Items that contribute towards exemplary qualities would include the following: bringing in current articles **and** volunteering to summarize and/or lead a discussion on these; volunteering for extra projects; stellar participation; contributions to the class web page; presenting a lecture/extra credit project on a relevant topic or book; showing a portion of a video to demonstrate ethical principles; participating in an activity that would bring credit or publicity to the class.... I am always eager to hear your creative proposals.

Extra credit is not busywork; it is something which positively contributes to the class.

## **Objectives**

By the end of the course, students will be able to do the following:

- Understand and critique ethical theory
  - Extract ethical questions or propositions that are implicit within the law, issues of personal behavior, and public policy;
  - Analyze complex ethical issues by identifying its underlying causes of ethical tension or conflict;
  - Listen to, consider the reasonableness of, and respond to ethical ideas contrary to their own.
- Students will be able to clearly articulate points of agreement and points of disagreement;
- Identify connections and relationships among different ethical issues;
  - Reflect critically on the process by which you and others arrive at decisions on complex ethical issues;
  - Reflect critically on the dissonance (if any) between present behavior and moral beliefs;
  - Research ethical issues utilizing the library's online catalog and professional databases;
  - Evaluate web resources;
  - Speak and write articulately on ethical theories and issues;
  - Write a "Living Code of Ethics" statement demonstrating you have critically thought about and developed a personal code of ethics.
  - Reflect critically upon and analyze ethical issues of personal and professional importance. You will be able to reason toward a decision on complex ethical issues and articulate justification for your moral decision and actions.
  - Appreciate the virtue of acting as responsible citizens, committed to ethical principles of freedom, equality, and justice. Students will better understand self, community, and our responsibility for such.

## **Plagiarism and Academic Integrity**

Any form of cheating will result in the immediate failure of the assignment and an official report to academic officials.

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's works or ideas in your writing. It is often known as copying word for word. However, even paraphrasing without acknowledgement or using the ideas of your peers garnered from class discussion or study groups are considered plagiarism. Whether it be conscious or unconscious, plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Your writing for this course is expected to be original, the product of your own thinking. Please see me if you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism.

Read and abide by the college's academic integrity policy in your TRCC Student Handbook : [http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Stu\\_Programs/TRCC-StudentHandbook.pdf](http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Stu_Programs/TRCC-StudentHandbook.pdf)

## Prerequisites

English 108

or consent of instructor

## Text Required

Living the Good Life: An Introduction to Ethical Theory for Personal and Professional Growth:

Theories, Case Studies, Self-Evaluations, and Reflective Questions by Louise N. Walkup This

Xeroxed text will be provided to you on the first night of class.

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## Withdrawal Policy

Students may withdraw from a class, in writing at the Registrar's Office, for any reason until (approximately) the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> week of classes. From the 11<sup>th</sup> week through the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> week, a student may withdraw with the signature of the instructor or advisor. Check the college catalog for specific dates. Formal withdrawal eliminates receiving an F for the course.

Attachment: Listing of Assignments

#	Date	Schedule of Assignments Due & Test Dates
		Students must review class lecture notes and handouts on a weekly basis
1	Jan. 27	First Class: No assignment due. Introductions: to each other and to the course and to the study of ethics. The syllabus and reading material will be distributed. Students will be made aware of the course policies and their responsibilities. <b>Focus Question: What is Ethics and why should good ethics be central to my life?</b>
2	Feb. 3	Discussion of Chapter 1 Character & Ethical Orientation and Chapter 2 Introduction to Ethics - Basic terms and Concepts Video on Kenya will be shown <b>Focus Question: What are your ethics and values?</b>
3	Feb. 10	<b>Guest Speaker: Emely Silver:</b> The ethics of helping abroad Chapter 3 Ethical Relativism: The Relative Truth about Ethics <b>Focus Question: Is everything relative, or are there objective rules out there?</b>
4	Feb. 17	Chapter 4 Divine Command Theory: Ethics According to God

		<p>Chapter 5 Egoism: It's all about me</p> <p>Chapter 11 Writing and Speaking on Ethical Issues</p> <p>For research assistance contact Robert Walsh <a href="mailto:RWalsh@trcc.commnet.edu">RWalsh@trcc.commnet.edu</a> in the Learning Resource Center</p> <p><b>Focus Question: Are my good actions, in part, motivated by selfish, egoistic concerns?</b></p>
5	Feb. 24	<b>Exam # 1</b>
6	March 3	<p>Completing discussion on Egoism and on the writing assignment</p> <p>Chapter 6:Utilitarianism , The Greatest Good for the Greatest Number</p> <p><b>Focus Question: Should we always strive for the greatest good for the greatest number, or can this sometimes be a cruel way to live?</b></p>
7	March 10	<p>Chapter 7 - Kant - Ethic's Universal Law</p> <p><b>Focus Question: Should we act from a Kantian sense of duty, even when we don't feel like it? Should I visit you in the hospital when I don't really want to?</b></p>
	March 17	SPRING BREAK!
8	March 24	<p>Chapter 8 Virtue Ethics: Who Needs Character</p> <p>Chapter 9 : Living With Integrity , What is Your Moral Minimum?</p> <p><b>Focus Question: How do I become a virtuous person?</b></p>
9	March 31	<p>Chapter 10: The Ethical Decision-Making Process</p> <p><b>Exam # 2</b></p> <p><b>Focus Question: How should ethical decisions be made?</b></p>
10	April 7	<p><b>Paper Due</b> plus question for exam based on your oral presentation</p> <p>No readings are due for this class; rather, focus your attention on your paper/project.</p>
11	April 14	<p>Oral Reports - (content of oral reports will be included on next exam)</p> <p>Contemporary Ethical Issues: Selected Readings will be provided</p>
12	April 21	<p>Oral reports (content of oral reports will be included on next exam)</p> <p>Contemporary Ethical Issues: Selected Readings will be provided</p>

13	April 28	Oral Reports Contemporary Ethical Issues: Selected Readings will be provided
14	May 5	<b>Exam #3</b>
15	May 12	<b>Cumulative Exam</b> (may be substitute for another exam grade) Closing Comments - Surveys - Makeups

Instructor reserves the right to revise this syllabus.

