PHIL 2316.002, Science & Technology Ethics, Fall 2015
Meeting Time: Tu. / Th., 3:30 - 4:50 p.m.
J. Lynn Adams, J.D., Room: HPC 2255, jackadams@uttyler.edu
Office hours: By Appointment.

Course Description:
In this course, we will read, analyze, evaluate, and discuss a selection of ethical works from the classical through the modern era, and apply those theories to twenty-first century sciences and technologies.

Throughout the semester, we will cover the following topics:

- What is the place of ethics in STEM and professional education?
- What do we mean when we talk about ethics?
- What is the end goal of ethical life?
- What are the common sources for ethical standards (utilitarianism, natural rights, fairness, justice, the common good, virtue approaches, emerging ethical problems, and unknown frontiers)?
- What ethical obligations do we bear in our personal and professional lives?

Student Learning Outcomes:
This course has four primary learning outcomes:

- Critical Thinking: Students will read philosophical works critically and analyze cases involving ethical decisions.
- Communication: Students will develop and communicate their analysis during class discussion and articulate in writing well-reasoned, well-organized analysis based on the relevant evidence they have reviewed.
- Personal Responsibility: Students will demonstrate personal responsibility for completing the readings assigned including all exams, writing, and other assignments without plagiarism.
- Social Responsibility: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the social responsibilities that a citizen bears in the decision-making process, understanding both the ethical dimensions and consequences of any given decision.

Course Objectives:
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Read, speak, and write effectively and critically about the cases and readings under study;
- Grasp interdisciplinary connections between philosophy, science, and technology;
- Understand the differences between the major ethical concepts and theories (absolutism, relativism, virtue ethics, utilitarianism, and deontology); and
- Articulate the rationale for their decisions regarding a given situation or case.


Resources:  MIT Classics Library http://classics.mit.edu
Stanford Philosophy Database http://plato.stanford.edu/
Purdue’s Online Writing Lab: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/
UT-Tyler’s Writing Center: https://www.uttyler.edu/writingcenter/
Grade Distribution:
During the semester, we will have several worksheets, quizzes, short papers, a mid-term examination, research presentations, and will scaffold through the completion of a ten-page academic research paper. Additionally, classroom participation and attendance are required. Grading for each assignment will be based on a 100-point scale, and distributed as follows:

- Worksheets, Quizzes, and 2-3 page Papers regarding assigned readings: 40%
- Mid-term Examination: 10%
- Research Presentations: 10%
- Final Paper Drafts: 10%
- Final Research Paper: 20%
- Participation and Professionalism: 10%
- Attendance (Maximum of 3 absences per letter grade): (Grounds for reduction)

Attendance:
Attendance is important to successful completion of the course. If more than three class periods are missed, then each additional set of absences will lower your final grade by one full letter grade. If your attendance is influenced by sickness or a school or life event, the responsibility falls upon the student to inform the professor of an official excuse via a form from a coach, dean, or doctor.

Class Participation:
Our course includes a study of selections from classical and pre-modern literature that informs modern thought on the topic at hand. Each student is expected to have read the assigned selections, and is likewise expected to engage the texts and fellow class members.

Courtesy and Expectations:
No lecture may be recorded without the express prior approval of the professor. Cell phones must be turned off and put away before class begins. You will not engage in any academic misconduct in this course, including, but not limited to, plagiarism, use of unattributed sources, or cheating on exams. Any kind of cheating, dishonesty, and/or plagiarism will result in your being turned into the student disciplinary committee and automatically failing the class.

Late Work:
Late work is NOT accepted, unless pre-authorized by the professor or accompanied by an official excuse, as articulated in the attendance policy.

Final Research Paper:
Each student is required to write a 10-page research paper, citing at least five academic sources, in the format appropriate for their discipline. The paper topic must be approved by the professor during the Final Paper Draft submission phase.

Students Rights and Responsibilities
To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: http://www2.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies
Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar.
Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students should be aware of, which include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals (there is no refund after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy
Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Student Disability / Accessibility Services
In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to saroffice@uttyler.edu.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance
Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities
If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.
Social Security and FERPA Statement
It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation
Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.