

**Southern New Hampshire University**

Course Reference Number (CRF) 09576

Course Syllabus: Honors 201

Professor Eleanor Dunfey-Freiburger

Fall/Spring Terms 2002-2003

Robert Frost Hall 309 x2254

**OFFICE HOURS:** M: 3:15-4:15

W: 9:30-11:30

T: 9:30-11:30

and by appointment

**TITLE: Heroics and Hubris: Lessons from World Classics in the Business of Living**

**TEXT:** Gregory, Wanda T. and Donna Giancola. World Ethics. CA:

Wadsworth/Thomson Learning. 2003 (ISBN: 0-534-51271-2).

Each student also needs a three-ring binder and pocket folder.

**PURPOSE:** It has been said that “Heritage is the sum of our resources for living.”

Even before the 2002 “summer rash” of corporate scandals, there was already plenty of evidence of hubris (excessive pride) fed by the greed of CEO’s. Our purpose in this seminar is to explore the values (and vices) that shape decision making, with the purpose of recognizing that we must all be leaders in the business of living ethically.

This seminar is an intellectual and moral journey aimed at enriching our understanding of the vast heritage of life lessons we have to draw from in the world’s great classics. These great works are our heritage, and “heritage is the sum of our resources for living.”

**APPROACH:** In this seminar, we will analyze and discuss selected works from ancient and contemporary world ethics, exploring professional and personal life lessons reflected in these great writings.

Students will research ethical theories and deliver case presentations on current ethical dilemmas in the professions, incorporating lessons learned from the selected world classics.

Ultimately, this intellectual and moral journey is an effort to “lift” us out of making judgments merely from the “I think” mode in order to evaluate issues and ideas from other perspectives. It is an effort, as well, to recognize that such a process does not reduce ethical decision making to relativism.

Exploring questions is the primary goal of this seminar, and we will draw on several resources:

- Analysis and discussion of primary sources
- Guest lecturers
- Field trips to businesses
- Research for presentation (Continuum members)

**Heroics and Hubris: Lessons from World Classics in the Business of Living**  
Professor Dunfey

**FOCUS:** This seminar will focus on the value of questioning as key to a mature process of critical thinking:  
What is ethos? What about free will?  
What is virtue? What is happiness? What is success?  
What values are basic in the life of a true citizen? A true leader?

**POLICIES:**

There is an expectation that students' dress, behavior, and preparation reflect respect and create an atmosphere conducive to learning.  
Appropriate dress (no hats, etc) required for presentations

Attendance:

The subject matter requires interaction. Therefore, active participation in class is essential. Absence will impact student's grade. Excessive (more than two) unexcused absences may result in dismissal from course or failing grade. Conformity to college policy on cuts is expected.

Materials and Assigned Work

All reports must be typed/word processed unless exception is given. Careless errors (grammatical and spelling) are unacceptable in final drafts. APA or MLA format is required for citations.  
Readings must be completed to insure quality discussion.  
Students must conform to college standards regarding cheating/plagiarism.  
Late work receives half-grade.

Schedule: Adjustments will be made as needed; students are responsible to make note of any schedule change. Such adjustments are required to take advantage of speakers and/or field trips that could not be scheduled when this syllabus was developed.

Field Trips and Speakers: Students who have a legitimate conflict when a field trip or speaker is scheduled will notify me and complete a research paper (to be assigned) covering the topic.

Please note: All students are expected to take initiative in making appointments to meet with me early in the term to discuss seminar work. Such meetings will impact the participation portion of student's grade.

Evaluation:

Attendance and Participation	20
Assigned Work for Classes (Papers and Current Events Folder)	40
Tests (2)	20
Pathways Project – See Three A's below (from Thematic Contents of <u>World Ethics</u> )	20

The three A's:

- Awareness
- Analysis
- Application

These three A's are the steps we will use in all our written work, particularly the research project that counts as the final examination for the fall term.

Awareness covers all the areas we need to uncover to recognize an issue. Research tools (including online sources) and interviewing are included in this step—the “collecting information” step.

Analysis addresses questions and methods of substantiating a thesis. The critical thinking process is our tool in this step. Ethical Theories offer criteria by which we make judgments.

Application is the transfer of the first two steps to professional situations today. It is in this step that we make connections from the the information and theories to real life dilemmas.

**9/4 -First Class:** Welcome! The title of this course: What do you think it means?  
Course overview.  
Why ask Why? The role of questioning in philosophy  
Text: 23-25: Plato's "Allegory of the Cave" (video)

**9/9 –Week 1:** (Due class 1)

Two-page reflection on Plato's Allegory in light of any current ethical dilemma you wish to discuss

Read Text; xiii-xx – Introduction

Class sessions:

Ethics (Ethos) the "measure" of character

"Man is the measure of all things" (Protagoras)

What good is it to say that if we do not know what 'man' is?

(Socrates' reply to Protagoras)

Terminology and the importance of Semantics

Synoptic philosophy

Socratic Dialogue

"The difference between us when we argue is that you think the conversation's over and I think it's just beginning."

(from "Jerry Maguire")

Philosophic argument

Need for different perspectives

**9/16 -Week 2:** (Due class 1)

Plato's "Euthyphro": 5ff

Prepare: 2-page typed response to readings. What do you think is

The role of questioning? Refer to "Allegory" and "Euthyphro"

Class sessions:

Discussion of the "Euthyphro"

Application to current issues. Explanation of Current Issues folder

Plato's "Defense of Socrates" distributed

**9/23 -Week 3:** (Due class 1)

Current Issues Folder: 2 articles with commentary in format and following instructions given in class last week

Read first half of Plato's "Defense of Socrates"

Class sessions:

Plato's "Defense of Socrates"

**9/30- Week 4:** (Due class 1)

Finish reading the “Defense of Socrates” and write 3 pages: Select, analyze, and apply at least 5 excerpts from the “Defense.”

Class sessions:

Ethics and Egoism: Might is Right!

Read and discuss in class: Text: p.12ff, Plato’s “Ring of Gyges”

Discussion of integrity, motivation, culture

**Test 1 – Class 2**

**10/7 - Week 5:** (Due class 1)

Current Issues folder: 2 articles reflecting questions of integrity.

Required format and commentary

Text: p. 29: Aristotle’s “Nicomachean Ethics,” Bks. I,II,X

Class sessions

Discussions: What is happiness? Success? What is virtue? (article)

Epicurus and Epictetus: Text: 38 ff

Alisdair McIntyre’s “After Virtue” – Text: 161 ff

Relate to articles in current issues folder

**10/14 (holiday) – Week 6:** (Due 10/17)

What is the message (advice) to be a successful leader according to Aristotle, Epicurus, Epictetus, McIntyre?

Use textual references in your paper (3-4 pages).

Class session (10/17)

Values and the development of Ethical Theories

Deontology, Kant’s “Metaphysics of Morals”

Utilitarianism, Mill’s “What is Utilitarianism?”

Assign students discussion question on p. 93

**10/21 -Week 7:** (Due class 1)

Response to text readings: 87-93 (Do assigned question on p. 93)

Written response should be thorough with text references

Current Issues folder – 2 articles according to format

Class sessions

Discussion of assigned work and report on current issues

Questions for Dr. Schneewind

Discussion of Dr. Schneewind’s presentation

**Please note:**

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Speaker: Dr. Jerry Schneewind, a John Stuart Mill scholar

will be speaking in the Walker Auditorium

Tuesday, Oct. 22, 11:00 (free period)

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**10/28 - Week 8:** (Due class 1)

3-4 page paper summarizing and responding to ideas presented by  
Dr. Schneewind

Class sessions

Corporate Social Responsibility: Leadership Lessons

**Test 2 (10/31 –Trick or Treat...!)**

**11/4 -Week 9:** (Due class 1)

Text: Part 3 - Team assignment

Class sessions:

Team assignment – Presentations/Discussions

Contemporary Cultural Perspectives

**11/11 -Week 10:** (Due class 1)

1-2 pages of information about XEROX Corporation (online sources)

Class sessions:

Speaker: Edward Ithier, SNHU alumnus, XEROX Corporation

Introduction to Part 2: The Asian Traditions

**11/18 -Week 11:** (Due class 1)

Text: 174-186: The Bhagavad Gita (Hindu)

The Buddha's Teaching

Current Issues folder: 2 articles according to required format

Class sessions:

The “world” in World Ethics: Broadening the Western Perspective

Hindu and Buddhist Traditions

**11/25 -Week 12:** (Due class 1)

Text: 169-173; 187-209; The Taoist and Confucian Traditions

Class session:

The Taoist and Confucian Traditions

Thanksgiving Recess – no class meeting on 11/28

**Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families!**

**12/2 - Week 13:** (Due class 1)

3-4 page paper: Reflection: East and West – “Leadership Lessons  
to be Learned”

Class sessions:

Text: Thematic Contents, ix. Subject selected for assigned paper

Discussion: Ethical Issues related to Relativism

Atheism, Skepticism, Existentialism

Environmentalism

Justice and Social Ethics

**12/9 -Week 14:** (Due class 1)

Outline (Three A's) of Pathways Project with bibliography and textual  
references

Class sessions:

Continuation of discussion of ethical issues (see week 13)  
related to current crises in professional life

Pathways Project (Final Examination)

(tentative plan for presentation to Continuum Members)