PHIL 2314-G, SP15  
Ethics  
Tu/Th 11am-12:15pm, Jerabeck 202

Mr. John Macias  
Office: 103 Sullivan, email: jmacias@stthom.edu  
Office Hours: Tu/Th 12:30-2:30pm

**Course Description:** A study of the components of the moral life and moral decision-making: freedom, obligation, conscience, objective goods and values. Application of moral principles to particular circumstances.

**Office Hours:** Office hours will be Tu/Th. I am also available for office hours by appointment. You may contact me via email. I will try to reply to all communications promptly.

**Required Texts:**  

**Requirements/Course Evaluations, Approximate Point Totals:**

Midterm, 80pts (25%)  
Final, 100pts (30%)  
Problem Papers, 40pts (15%)  
Quizzes, 78pts (25%)  

Due Dates for Papers:  
Paper #1- 2/5/15  
Paper #2- 2/24/15  
Paper #3- 3/31/15  
Paper #4- 4/30/15

The final grade is determined by accumulation of points out of approximately 300pts total for the semester. There are two exams: a midterm and a final (the final is cumulative). Four papers are assigned for the semester. Papers consist of a single question that you must answer with an essay of at least 500 words. Each paper is worth 10 points. Daily quizzes are 3pts each.

A     = 100-93%  
A–    = 92-90%  
B+    = 89-88%  
B     = 87-83%  
B–    = 82-80%  
C+    = 79-78%  
C     = 77-73%  
C–    = 72-70%  
D+    = 69-68%  
D     = 67-60%  
F     = 59%-BELOW

**Attendance/Participation:**  
Students are expected to be present at every class, and have prepared the required reading for that day. Attendance will be taken. Responsibility for material covered in a missed class rests solely with the student. Make-up tests will only be offered for very serious reasons. *At the beginning of each class, there will also be a short quiz worth 3 points over the reading for that day.* You will have the first five minutes of class to complete the quiz. If you are late or absent, you will receive a 0 for the quiz. You must attend class in order to get credit for the quiz. You may not take the quiz and then leave class. At the end of the semester, two zeros will be dropped. Essentially, you will be able to miss 2 quizzes (tardy or absence) without any affect to your grade. At the beginning of each class, I will play a piece of music. If you can identify either the name of the piece, the performer, or the composer, write it on the top
of the quiz sheet and if correct you will receive 1 point of extra credit on that quiz (maximum 10pts). No food is allowed in class. Water and coffee are permitted.

Cell phones/Laptops:
No cell phone use is allowed during class. You must turn off or silence your cell phone before entering the classroom. If you are seen using your phone during class, you will be counted as absent for the day and receive a 0 for any work done that day. Laptop computers also will not be allowed in class unless there is a documented need. If you wish to use a computer during class, you must bring a signed note each class stating that you will only use the computer for class purposes. If you use a computer in class but fail to provide a signed note, you will be counted as absent.

Policy on Academic Dishonesty:
See pages 9-11 of the UST Student Handbook
(http://www.stthom.edu/Campus_Student_Life/Policies_Procedures/Student_Handbook.aqf)

Excerpt:
“Every offense against academic honesty seriously undermines the teaching-learning process for which the University exists, and such offenses will be dealt with expeditiously according to the following criteria.

Definition
Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:
1. Cheating on an examination or test, for example, by copying from another's paper or by using unauthorized materials before or during the test;
2. Plagiarism, which represents as one's own the work of another, whether published or not, without acknowledging the precise source;
3. Knowing participation in the academic dishonesty of another student even though one's own work is not directly affected;
4. Any conduct which reasonable persons would recognize as dishonest in an academic setting.”

Penalty
The penalty for an incident of academic dishonesty is, at the discretion of the faculty member, either a mark of zero for the work in question or the grade of ‘F’ for the course.” Any instances of plagiarism will be documented and put on file with the university.

Communication:
At times during the course the professor may contact the entire class by e-mail. This will be done through the UST Blackboard website and messages will be sent to the UST e-mail addresses of the students. Required handouts will be either posted on Blackboard or given in class.

Students with Disabilities:
Any student with a documented disability requiring accommodations in this course is encouraged to contact the professor after class or during office hours. Class policies are subject to adjustment for individual disability and need.

Outline of Topics and Readings:

I. Do we Know Ourselves?
   a. “Why Study Philosophy and Theology?” (Handout-Kreeft)
   b. Ways of being “lost.” (Percy, 1-13)
   c. The Promiscuous Self (Percy, 41-56)
   d. The Depressed Self (Percy, 70-82)
   e. Demonic Self (Percy, 175-198)
   f. Space Odyssey (Percy, 201-221)

II. What is Good and Evil?
   a. What is Ethics? (Fagothey, 19-30)
   b. Relativism, (“Refutation of Moral Relativism,” Handout-Kreeft)
c. Utilitarianism (Fagothey, 61-69)
d. Obligation/Deontology (Fagothey, 190-197)

III. Our Ultimate End
   a. Happiness (Fagothey, 44-60)
   b. Pursuit of Happiness (Fagothey, 69-84)

IV. Norms of Morality
   a. Meaning of Norms (Fagothey, 127-144)
   b. Moral Actions (Fagothey, 145-156)
   c. Natural Law (Fagothey, 170-188)
   d. Need for Nature (“Abolition of Man,” Handout-C.S. Lewis)
   e. Conscience (Fagothey, 207-223)
   f. Virtues (Fagothey, 224-236)

V. Moral Issues
   a. Life (Fagothey, 275-287)
   b. Family (Fagothey, 358-378)
   c. Labor (Fagothey, 479-486)

This syllabus is subject to modification at the instructor’s discretion