I. Instructor Information

Name: Matthew Franks
Office: off campus instructor
Telephone: If you need to talk over the phone, email me with your number and a convenient time and I will contact you within a couple of days.
Office hours: by appointment
Mailbox location: Department of Fine Arts and Humanities, Administration Building
Email: Please use the Mail/Messages function on the course website. If for some reason this is impossible, email me at mfranks@pulaskitech.edu Always include the course number and your section number in the subject heading of all emails!

II. Catalog Description

3 Credit Hours (3 hours lecture per week)

An introductory course in ethics including an examination of such basic philosophical issues as the nature of morality as compared with other normative subjects, ethical relativism ethical objectivism, egoism vs. altruism, Utilitarianism, Deontological ethics, Aretaic ethics, relationship between religion and ethics, Feminist ethics, Emotivism, and the fact-value problem.

Prerequisites: none

III. Course Resources

Textbooks: Pojman, Louis P. Philosophy: Ethics: Discovering Right and Wrong. 7th edition, or whichever edition is stocked in the bookstore - (earlier editions like the 5th or 6th are fine, though there might be some slight differences with section arrangement, page numbers, etc.) Belmont, California: Wadsworth, 2006.
ISBN 0534619363.

IV. Division Objectives

The Fine Arts and Humanities Division upholds and promotes the general education objectives stated in the PTC Catalog by requiring students taking classes in the Fine Arts and Humanities Division to:

1. Think critically.
2. Act with integrity.
3. Write across the curriculum.
4. Demonstrate computer literacy.
5. Demonstrate information literacy.
6. Demonstrate cultural literacy and sensitivity.
7. Understand the importance of civic/community involvement.

V. Course Objectives and Course Content

Course Objectives

The student will:

1. Develop an appreciation of various points of views
2. Demonstrate critical inquiry
3. Demonstrate a familiarity with the crucial concepts relevant to a philosophical analysis of reality, knowledge, human values, and critical reasoning.

Course Content

Through discussion and the use of historical and contemporary readings students will gain an understanding of concepts and argumentation relevant to a philosophical analysis of reality, knowledge, values, and logical reasoning. The class will require students to read and write critically, and exams and writing assignments will be used to reinforce student knowledge of these topics.

VI. Attendance Policy

Agencies granting financial assistance may be notified of the violation of the attendance policy by students receiving financial aid.

Attendance is taken starting the first day of the semester, with the exception of students who enroll after classes have started. Teachers have the right to count students as absent if they arrive late to class, leave class early, or go in and out of the classroom during class time. Teachers have the right to lower a student’s grade based on excessive absences. Teachers have the right to enforce PTC’s administrative drop policy for days of consecutive nonattendance. Such particulars as determined by the instructor are detailed in the paragraph below.

Your attendance is verified on the website; it records number/time of logins, etc.

VII. Classroom Policies

The PTC Student Handbook rules and regulations will be enforced in this class at all times. Professional behavior is required. Punctual attendance and intelligent participation are expected. Particulars as determined by the instructor are detailed in the paragraph below.

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VIII. Grading

A. Assignments: There will be two exams in this course, a midterm and a final. In addition, you will be required to participate weekly on the discussion board.
B. Late Work Policy: Late work will be penalized one letter grade per day late if there is no official excuse provided to and approved by the instructor.

C. Attendance and Participation: You will be expected read every lecture, complete the readings noted for each lecture, and participate regularly on the discussion board.

D. Evaluation and Grades: Exams will generally be available online for at least three days. Ethics and Society is a class that relies heavily on classroom participation. In an online format this will take place on the discussion board. There generally will be one discussion topic posted each week, usually on Thursdays. Each student must post at least one substantive response on the topic (100 words or more). In addition, you are expected to read the responses of your fellow students (or a follow up comment by the instructor) and respond to at least one of their posts with a substantive response (50 words or more). In addition, students may be asked to “lead” a discussion; that is, to prepare a written presentation of 500 or more words (one and a half to two pages) on a chapter of the book. Students will not be asked to lead more than one discussion.

To provide an imaginative context to the ethical issues we will be discussing, in addition to the textbook we will also read several fiction selections that touch upon ethical topics. The texts will be available online (I’ve provided links under the content area “Online resources”). The selections will be entertaining and provocative, and will play a role in several of our discussion questions.

Letter grades will be based on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 to 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 to 89%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>70 to 79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 to 69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 to 59%</td>
<td>F</td>
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Course requirements | Rough % of final grade
---------------------|------------------------
Exams                | 50%                    |
Discussion board participation | 50%                    |

IX. Academic Integrity

It is expected that all students who attend PTC conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for the college experience. Academic integrity is a vital component of collegiate behavior. The PTC Student Handbook states, “The gaining of knowledge and the practice of honesty go hand-in-hand.”

The handbook also states, “The responsibility and authority of initiating discipline arising from violations of the rules against dishonesty during the process of the course are vested in the instructor of that course.”

The complete Academic Integrity Policy can be found in the PTC Student Handbook.

X. Accommodation Policy

Services for Students with Disabilities: PTC is committed to fulfilling all federal requirements as stated in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Accommodations are
available to students who have documented disabilities. Students who request accommodations must register with the Coordinator of Disability Services in Counseling Services (501-812-2220 or www.pulaskitech.edu) prior to the semester of planned enrollment, and must provide recent documentation of medical, educational, and/or psychological records.

Students who need accommodations should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Accommodations will only be provided if the instructor receives a letter of approved accommodations from the Coordinator of Disability Services. Failure to provide sufficient notification may result in a delay of services.

XI. Course Evaluations

Students may be asked to evaluate their instructor and course near the end of the semester. These student evaluations are very important to the improvement in the quality of instruction and course materials. All results are anonymous and shared with the faculty only after the semester is over and grades have been posted.

XII. Information Literacy

PTC is committed to the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education as established by the Association of College and Research Libraries and endorsed by the National Forum on Information Literacy. Therefore, all courses will incorporate an information literacy component so that, by graduation, all students will be able to recognize the need for information, then locate, evaluate, synthesize, and communicate information in an ethical manner. Information literacy encompasses critical thinking, research, media, technology, health, business, and visual literacy skills to produce lifelong learners who can make informed decisions in the workplace and in their personal lives.

XIII. Course Schedule/Course Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assignment/Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Week 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introductions</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Short Story – Harrison Bergeron (Kurt Vonnegut)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 1 (textbook): What is Ethics?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Brave New World, chapter 1 (online)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Week 3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 2: Ethical Relativism</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BNW, chapter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 3: The Case for Moral Objectivism
Antigone (Sophocles)

5  Week 5
Chapter 4: Value

6  Week 6
Chapter 5: Egoism, Self-Interest, and Altruism
Anthem (Ayn Rand), chapters 1-2

7  Week 7
Chapter 6: Utilitarianism

8  Week 8
Review and Midterm

9  Week 9
Chapter 7: Kantian and Deontological Systems
1984 (George Orwell), chapter 1 and appendix
Chapter 8: Virtue-Based Ethics

10  Week 10
Chapter 8: Virtue-Based Ethics

11  Week 11
Chapter 9: Why should I Be Moral?

12  Week 12
Chapter 10: Religion and Ethics
Selections from The Confessions (St. Augustine)
13    Week 13

Chapter 11: The Fact-Value Problem

14    Week 14

Chapter 12: Moral Realism and the Challenge of Skepticism

15    Week 15

Make-up/Review Week

16    Week 16

Concluding Reflections and Appendix 1 and 2

17    Week 17

Final Exam

Disclaimer: This schedule is a guide for the semester. The instructor reserves the right to amend the schedule as necessary.

XIV. Course Agreement Form

Read, complete, and return to instructor:

I have read the course syllabus for Matthew Franks at Pulaski Technical College, and I understand its content. I also understand the rules for the class, and I will follow and abide by these rules, including those relating to attendance, assignments, grading criteria, plagiarism, and behavior.

Date    ______________

Print name    ________________________________

Signature    ________________________________

Email address    ________________________________

Telephone    ________________________________