Phil. 430(3): Ethics and Society
T/Th 12:40-2:00
Spring 2016

Instructor Information
Instructor: Kristian Olsen
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Course Description
This course will provide you with an introduction to the philosophical study of ethics. The first half of the course will be devoted to theoretical ethics. We will discuss the nature of the good life, the meaning of moral terms, and the relationship between ethics and the attitudes of society. We will also discuss several leading theories about what makes an action morally right—we’ll examine Divine Command Theory, Natural Law Theory, Ethical Egoism, Consequentialism, Kantianism, and a few others. The second half of the course will be devoted to applied ethics. We will likely discuss abortion, animal rights, famine relief, sweatshops, affirmative action, and possibly other topics if time permits. There will be an emphasis, throughout the course, on connecting the discussion to classical cases in business ethics. Along the way, you’ll learn a bit about logic and argumentation.

Course Requirements
Course requirements will include in-class exams, some group activities, in-class writing assignments, and participation in an online discussion forum.

There are no prerequisites for this course. It satisfies the Discovery Humanities (HUMA) Category and Gen. Ed. Category 8. It satisfies the PCBE ethics requirement.

Textbook Information
The textbook for the course will likely be Russ Shafer-Landau’s *The Fundamentals of Ethics, 3rd Edition*, Oxford University Press, 2014. Other readings will be put online.