A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Theoretical Foundations of Moral Values (Ph 104) is one of the four philosophy subjects in the undergraduate core curriculum of the Ateneo de Manila University. The main focus of this course is moral theories. Moral theories represent the reflections of great thinkers who have grappled with the basic moral questions that we too must face in our own life. We are not the first to raise questions about morality. Moral theories constitute the attempts of past thinkers to wrestle with the moral questions of their time. These theories do not just belong to the past, however; they belong as much to the present for they provide us with a tradition by which we can understand our moral dimension. So we need to reflect on them in light of our struggle with our own moral situation.

There are various arguments to support the need to reflect on the nature of the good life and the value of living well. Some of the most famous lines come from Socrates: “The unexamined life is not worth living;” and Confucius: “With coarse rice to eat, with water to drink, and with a bent arm for a pillow, there is still joy. Wealth and honor obtained through unrighteousness are but floating clouds to me.” There is also the oft-quoted statement of Augustine: “Oh God, You have created us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee.”
B. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the semester, the student should be able:

1. To explain or articulate orally and in writing the basic concepts and principles of the ethical theories discussed in class;
2. To adapt their understandings of the ethical theories to their personal experience, and to apply these theories on particular moral situations or cases;
3. To accept the importance of the moral dimension in their life, and to justify their behavior based on moral principles.

C. STUDY GUIDES

This syllabus contains all the information you need to make your way successfully through the course. Make sure you read all the sections carefully. Questions may be asked during the first week of classes at which further clarifications regarding the course will be made.

There is no single text prescribed for this course. There is a Lecture Manual available at cost to students who want to have a copy. The manual is not required. The list of the readings assigned per topic is provided below. Copies of the readings are available at the Copy Center in the Filipiniana Section of the Rizal Library.

D. COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction
2. Moral Theories: Confucius/Plato/Augustine
3. Reflection Process
5. Moral Case Analysis
6. Conclusion

E. COURSE TIMETABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>SESSION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>TOPIC / ACTIVITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11 August</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Course Syllabus Discussion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13 August</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Reading Groups Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18 August</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Opening Lecture</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>20 August</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Discussion: Confucius Readings</td>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25 August</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Lecture-Synthesis: Confucius</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>27 August</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Lecture-Synthesis: Confucius</td>
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<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 September</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Discussion: Plato Readings</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>3 September</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Lecture-Synthesis: Plato</td>
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</table>
F. REQUIRED READINGS

Confucius:


Plato:


Augustine:


Aristotle:


Thomas Aquinas:

Kossel, Clifford G. “Natural Law and Human Law.” In The Ethics of Aquinas, 169-82.

Immanuel Kant:

Darwall, Stephen. “Kant.” In Philosophical Ethics, 139-73.
G. SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS


H. COURSE ASSESSMENT

To pass this course, all assessment tasks must be completed. The tasks will be collected during class hours on the due date. Marks will be deducted from late submissions.

1. **First Essay: Reflection Paper**
   Word Count: 1,000-1,500
   Work Load: Individual
   Due Date: 29 September 2015, Tuesday

   Write a reflection on a major idea or teaching that you find personally significant from any of the first three moral theories discussed in the course. The reflection paper must follow and contain the four moments of the reflection process: *experience, significance, insight, and response*. The rubrics for marking the reflection paper are shown below.

   **MATRIX FOR MARKING THE REFLECTION PAPER**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA / MARKING</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
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<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>STRUCTURE AND ANALYSIS: Clear development of paper as prescribed process.</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>STYLE AND PRESENTATION: Correct grammar, format, and prompt submission.</td>
<td>10%</td>
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2. **Second Essay: Analysis Paper**
   Word Count: 1,500-2,000
   Work Load: Dyad
   Due Date: 26 November 2015, Thursday

   Choose an item or story from current news (local or foreign)—sourced from newspaper, digital media, or television—about which you can give a relatively comprehensive account. You may also select your story from a fairly recent movie,
television series, or novel. Make sure to give proper documentation of your source. Using principles from one or more of the last three moral theories discussed in the course, analyze the item or story according to the moral quality of the action and the responsibility or accountability of the principal agent. The rubrics for marking the moral case analysis paper are shown below.

**MATRIX FOR MARKING THE ANALYSIS PAPER**

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<td>STRUCTURE AND ANALYSIS: Clear development of paper as prescribed process.</td>
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<td>STYLE AND PRESENTATION: Correct grammar, format, and prompt submission.</td>
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**NOTA BENE:**

a. Everyone is expected to retain a personal copy— preferably both a hard and soft copy—of the two essays.

b. A soft copy of the two essays should also be submitted to Turnitin — the class name, enrolment password, class identification number, and assignment title will be provided in class. Failure to submit to Turnitin will automatically incur a failing mark in the essay.

c. The first and second essays should be passed with a Cover Sheet as shown below.

d. Print essays and summaries on a short bond, 8.5” x 11”. Use Arial font, size 12. Observe double-spacing and 1” margin on all sides. The use of recycled papers is encouraged.

3. **Group Work: Required Readings Reports**

The class will be divided into reading groups designed to encourage team-work and to develop student-centered learning. The members of the groups are expected to help one another manage and share responsibility for the required readings in the course. The assignment or division of the readings for each moral theory is to be determined by the group members themselves. The group discussion of the readings will be done in class according to the following schedule:

- 20 August Thu Group Discussion: Confucius Readings
- 01 September Tue Group Discussion: Plato Readings
- 10 September Thu Group Discussion: Augustine Readings
- 01 October Thu Group Discussion: Aristotle Readings
- 22 October Thu Group Discussion: Thomas Aquinas Readings
- 10 November Tue Group Discussion: Immanuel Kant Readings
At the end of every discussion, the groups will be given an assignment to be discussed initially in class but to be submitted in the next class date. Only those present in the actual class discussion may work on and submit the assignment which will be considered a group quiz. The assignments will be marked individually but computed cumulatively at the end of the semester and will be a component of the final mark.

4. **Midterm Oral Examination**: The examination shall be an oral presentation of the reflection paper highlighting the four moments of the process. Comments will be made on the structure and content of the paper during the examination. The slots for the midterm oral exam will be assigned and the schedule circulated in class on September 29th, Tuesday.

5. **Final Oral Examination**: The examination shall be an oral defense of the moral case analysis paper. The questions will be based solely on the content of the analysis paper. The examination will be by dyad and the mark of the dyad will apply similarly to both members. The sign-up for the final oral exam will be done in class on November 19th, Tuesday.

**FINAL ORAL EXAM AIDE MEMOIR**

a. The examination is for 15-20 minutes. The venue is my office at the Philosophy Department (Second Floor, De La Costa Hall).

b. You are to be seated in the waiting area of the department five minutes before your schedule. You are to keep quiet inside the department. No discussion of lessons or loud conversation will be allowed.

c. The oral exam will be conducted in English. You are to answer my questions in connection with your second essay. It will be best, therefore, that you listen to my questions closely.

d. No note cards and other reference materials will be allowed inside the examination room. Each one of you, however, is expected to have an identical copy of your second paper.

e. There is no prescribed attire for the oral exam. Wearing formal attire is not discouraged, but the regular attire for school will do.

f. Please make sure of your oral exam schedule. If you miss your schedule, you will receive a failing mark in the oral exam.
I. GRADING SYSTEM

First Essay: 30%
Second Essay: Paper 25%
                Defense 25%
Readings Reports: 20%

J. CLASSROOM POLICIES

The classroom policies to be observed in this course are taken from the Student Guide to the Code of Academic Integrity (SG) and the Academic Regulations stated in the Undergraduate Student Handbook (SH).

1. The regulations on promptness (SH, Sec. 29) and attendance (SH, Sec. 24-28) will be strictly observed.

2. Active classroom participation and proper etiquette in class recitation shall be the norm.

3. Punctuality in the submission of requirements and for the oral exam shall be the rule.

4. The marking of assessments and the computation of the final grade is according to the letter system provided in Sec. 34-35 of the Student Handbook.

5. The acknowledgement of the sources and the accurate presentation of the ideas and data used in the essays are a must. Plagiarism and fabrication (SG, Sec. 3 - B & C) shall not be tolerated.

K. CONSULTATION HOURS

Office: Tuesday/Thursday 10:30-12:00
        Friday           2:00-4:00

Email: rhermida@ateneo.edu
# REFLECTION PAPER
## Assessment Cover Sheet

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<td>Due Date</td>
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All assessment tasks must be submitted by the due date. If an extension is granted— for medical or personal reasons —this must be indicated by the signature of the professor.

Extension Date Granted  Professor’s Signature

Please note that it is your responsibility to retain a copy of your assessment task.

**Student’s Statement:**

I certify that the attached essay complies with the principles and policies of the Student Guide to the Code of Academic Integrity of the Loyola Schools, Ateneo de Manila University.

Signature  Date
### ANALYSIS PAPER

**Assessment Cover Sheet**

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Signatures 

Date