PHI 3670 ETHICS
Dr. Sally Ferguson

Course Overview:

Each of us has views of what is right and wrong, or what is good and bad. On the basis of these views, we make decisions that affect both others and ourselves. We sometimes wonder, however, whether any of our moral views can be justified, or whether morality is simply a matter of personal opinion. Ethics is the branch of philosophy that attempts to answer the central question here, which is "What determines right and wrong?" Western philosophers have been discussing this question, and attempting to provide a theoretical foundation for ethics, for over 2000 years. In this course we will trace the historical development of their views.

Required Texts:

Oliver A. Johnson: *Ethics: Selections from Classical and Contemporary Writers,* 8th edition, (Harcourt Brace, 1999)

Homework and Exams:

There will be two paragraph-answer and essay examination. The examinations must be written in "blue books" – examination booklets that are available at the UWF bookstore. Each student is responsible for bringing his or her own blue books to the exams. Exams will focus heavily on material covered in lectures. Make-up exams will only be allowed in cases of legitimate need, and authentication of excuse will be required (e.g. doctor's note.) Arrangements should be made in advance except in cases of emergency, and as soon as possible in the case of emergency.

Each student will be expected to have read the applicable material in advance of class. In class we will be discussing the issues raised in the reading, and expanding on them.

Grading Policy:

The two examinations will each count as 45% of the final grade. Attendance will count as the remaining 10% of the final grade. Each student should retain all of his or her written work for the course until after receipt of the final grade.

Attendance:

Class attendance is mandatory, and will be taken. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure he or she has been correctly listed as in attendance in the event of a late arrival to class.

Class Schedule: (Subject to revision – each student is responsible for any changes announced in class)

Part One:	The Classical and Medieval Periods (Plato, Aristotle, Epictetus, Augustine, Aquinas)
Part Two:	The Modern World (Hobbes, Butler, Kant. Bentham, Mill, Kierkegaard, Marx, Nietzsche)
Part Three:	The Twentieth Century (Ayer, Moore, Wittgenstein, Sartre, Rawls)