SYLLABUS

Introduction
“Philanthropy” comes from the Greek philanthropia, which itself derives from philia (one of the Greek words for “love”) and anthropos (“man” or, updated for modern sensibilities, “human”). It is translated literally, then, as “love to mankind [or humankind].” And many people, as you know, attempt to make philanthropic activity the basis of their careers. In fact, the United States is one of the most philanthropic societies in the world. Though statistics vary on this point year over year, roughly 90% of Americans donate time, energy, money, and even blood to their fellow human beings. This is remarkable.

But, we might ask, what makes philanthropy a worthwhile pursuit? In other words, why should we “love” our fellow human beings to the point of devoting our careers and our energies to their well-being?

This question—what makes philanthropy a worthwhile pursuit—will be the central issue underlying the entirety of our class. And this is the question that should be on your mind as we ask many related questions concerning philanthropy, including how we evaluate the ethical claims made regarding our behavior, what it means to engage in a profession and pursue a calling (especially in philanthropic work), where wealth comes from, how such wealth might be pursued and distributed ethically, and what values and virtues—moral and intellectual—are required to engage in philanthropic pursuits effectively.

A note on studying ethics and the outcome of this ethics course:
I truly want each of you to succeed in this course. In fact, I want you to want to succeed in this course! But to succeed in this class, you should know upfront what kind of course this is. This is a philosophy class. As such, it is NOT designed to hand you a specific body of knowledge that can enable you to earn easy money. (Of course, if it does do that for you, kudos!) This course is intended to help you to think hard about the very questions that define who you are as a person. A person, in this case, who might enter into the world of philanthropy and who will make decisions that will affect your own well-being and that of others on a daily basis. My hope is that you leave this course with some ability to utilize more sophisticated reasoning— informed by philosophical study—in your everyday thinking about those decisions you make in your career and in your life. Also, because of the compressed schedule, this is an intensive course. I will work on my end to keep classes varied and interesting, but, in return, be prepared to do a solid amount of work in a shorter amount of time. My hope is that you will find the course both challenging and rewarding.

Requirements
Attendance:
Because this is a quick semester, it is essential that you be present for every class. Only emergencies and serious illnesses will excuse you. Also, your attendance does not count if you skip out after the breaks during class. Since our semester is short and compressed, much of the material you will need for successfully completing your exams will come from class lectures and will not be found just in the readings. Attendance is worth **10 points.** For each class you miss, up to and including three classes, I will deduct **3 points.** If you miss four classes, you automatically fail the course.

A class is only as good as its participants—and that includes me AND you! Trust me; this three-hour class will be boring if you do not come prepared and ready to participate! Though I want you to learn in our
class, I also want you to enjoy yourselves. I will offer a participation bonus to those students who, in my estimation, contribute to a lively and thought-provoking class. Note, however, there is a difference between participating and participating *well*. (Only those who, in my estimation, participate *well* merit the bonus.) The participation **bonus** is worth **2 points**.

**Short Essay:**
I will assign one very short essay (three pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman, one-inch margins, 12-font) based on the film from the first day of class. It is worth **20 points**.

**Exams:**
There will be two in-class examinations in the form of a mid-term and a final. Tentatively, your first exam is worth **35 points** and your second is worth **35 points**.

**Grading Total:**
Attendance (10) + Essay (20) + First Exam (35) + Second Exam (35) = **100 points**

**Grade Distribution:**

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<td>F</td>
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**Other Assignments:**
I reserve the right to add additional assignments and to change the syllabus. Ample notice will be given.

**Required Readings:**
These books are available on-line for low prices:

Additional readings will be available online (as listed in the syllabus) or as handouts.

**EXTRA MATTER**

**Technology in the Classroom:**
Lately cellphones, Facebook, Twitter, and other online distractions have become real problems in classrooms. For this reason, should I catch any student playing on his or her phone or laptop during class (texting, Facebook, Twitter, etc.), that student will be asked to leave. I will allow laptops only for note taking. Also, please remember to turn your phones to silent/vibrate before class begins.

**Decorum:**
All students are expected to act in a polite and respectful manner. If any student becomes disruptive, he or she will be told to leave and will not receive credit for attendance.

**Statement on Plagiarism:**
Plagiarism on the part of a student in academic work or dishonest examination behavior will result minimally in the instructor assigning the grade of "F" for the assignment or examination. In addition, all instances of academic dishonesty must be reported to the chairperson of the department involved. The chairperson may constitute a hearing board to consider the imposition of sanctions in addition to those imposed by the instructor, including a recommendation of expulsion, depending upon the seriousness of the misconduct.
**Schedule**

*Week One: Introduction and Normative Theory*

**Monday, July 8th:** Introduction, Film  
In advance:  
- McCoy, Bowen. “Parable of the Sadhu”  
- Plato, “Ring of Gyges,” *Republic*  
  [http://webs.wofford.edu/kayced/ethics/gyges.htm](http://webs.wofford.edu/kayced/ethics/gyges.htm)  

First Essay Assigned (due Friday, July 12th)

**Wednesday, July 10th:** Crash Course in Normative Theory: Utilitarianism, Deontology, & Virtue Ethics  
In advance:  
- Plato, *Crito*.  
  [http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/crito.html](http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/crito.html)  

**Friday, July 12th:** Discussion of Normative Theory  
First essay due, in-class.

*Week Two: Wealth Creation, Business Activity, and Economics*

**Monday, July 15th:** How do economies and incentives work?  
In advance:  
- Bastiat, Frédéric. “What is Seen and What is Not Seen”  
- Yandle, Bruce. “Bootleggers and Baptists: The Education of a Regulation Economist”  

In-class:  

**Wednesday, July 17th:** Where does the money come from, and what do we do with it?  
In advance:  
- Carnegie, Andrew. “Wealth”  
- Friedman, Milton. “The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase its Profits”  

In-class:  
- Friedman, Mackey, Rodgers. “Rethinking the Social Responsibility of Business”  

**Friday, July 19th:** Mid-term exam, in class; class discussion after mid-term
Week Three: Issues in Domestic and Foreign Aid

Monday, July 22nd: Domestic aid: what does it demand and what are its limits?
In advance:
- Roosevelt, Franklin D. “The Four Freedoms”
- Brooks, Arthur. Gross National Happiness (chapters TBD)

Wednesday, July 24th: International aid, part 1
In advance:
- Singer, Peter. The Life You Can Save (chapters TBD)

Friday, July 26th: International aid, part 2
In advance:
- Easterly, William. White Man’s Burden. (chapters TBD)

Week Four: Vocations and Values and Conclusions

Monday, July 29th: The Examined Life (and the Examined Career)
In advance:
- Adams, Robert M. “A Conception of Vocation” (handout)
- Novak, Michael. Business as a Calling (Introduction, chapters 1, 4, 5, 9, 10)
In class:
- Handy, Charles. “What’s a Business For?” (handout, but also available on-line)

Wednesday, July 31st: Final exam, in-class