UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY – AFRICA
COURSE SYLLABUS
PHIL 3310: ETHICS AND VALUE THEORY
3 UNITS
INSTRUCTOR:

PURPOSE
This course aims at introducing the student to the basic ethical concepts, theories, principals and reasoning.

OBJECTIVES
At the end of the course, the student should be able to;
1. Define, and use ethical terms, concepts, principles and theories.
2. Understand the meaning, nature and functions of ethical theories and principles.
3. Distinguish between the field values and facts.
4. Develop a philosophical thinking about morality.
5. Solve ethical problems in both definite and indefinite solution

COURSE CONTENT
Week 1: Meaning nature and scope of philosophy
    1. Definition of:
          a. Ethics
          b. Morality
          c. Moral agent
          d. Ethical action
          e. Ethical term
          f. Ethical judgment
          g. Ethical dilemma

Week 2: Morality, law and religion

Week 3: Types of ethical thinking
        a. Descriptive Ethics
        b. Normative Ethics
        c. Meta-ethics

Week 4: Value and Virtue

Assignment 1: Law need not be moral, but it guides us on what we ought to do. Discuss the truth of this statement

Week 5: Ethical subjectivism and ethical subjectivism

Classification and ethical theories & Standards for Moral Valuation

Week 6: Teleological theories
        a. Utilitarianism

   b. Ethical egoism

  Deontological theories
   a. Platonism
   b. Kantian Categorical Imperative
   c. The divine Command Theory

Term Paper: You are in a committee to consider and recommend on the fate of severely disabled children resulting from IVF procedure. How would you weigh the welfare of the child and that of the parents?

Mid semester Exams

Week 8: Other standards for ethical judgment
   a. Intuition.
   b. Customs and traditions
   c. Conscience
   d. Reason

Week 9: Freedom and Human Act: The meaning of Freedom and Determinism

Some practical ethical issues

Week 10: Medical Ethics: The morality of abortion
   a. The Conservative view
   b. The Libel view
   c. The Feminist view
   d. Morality, Euthanasia and Suicide
    o active euthanasia
    o Passive Euthanasia
    o Death and Dignity

Week 11 & 12: Ethics and Law
   a. Crime, Punishment and Responsibility
   b. Capital Punishment
   c. Justice and Justice in law

Week 13: Human Rights and Rights of man
   a. Basic human rights
   b. Human rights and Africa
   c. Morality and freedom of expression (Pornography sex and Censorship).

Week 14:
   a. Environmental Ethics; From Anthropocentric to Bio-centric Ethics
   b. Morality and gender equality: Establishing the moral status for gender discrimination.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

1. H. Odera Oruka, *Ethics.* Nairobi University Press, 1990.
2. H. Odera Oruka, *Punishment and terrorism in Africa.* Nairobi, 1976
3. H. Odera Oruka, ed. *Philosophy, Humanity and Ecology: Philosophy of Nature and Environmental Ethics.* Nairobi: ACTS Press, 1994.

4. William M. Frankena, *Ethics*. New Delhi, 1995.
5. E.E. Englehart. *Ethics and Life: an inter disciplinary Approach to moral problems.* 1992
6. R.F.R. Gardner, *Abortion and the Personal Dilemma.* Sydney 1972.
7. M. Harambos, and M. Holborn, *Sociology*. London: 1990. (Read section on sex and gender)
8. J. O. Fitzgibbon, *Ethics: Fundamental principles of moral philosophy.* Washington: Washington University Press. 1983.
9. John Finnis, *Fundamentals of Ethics*.

COURSE EVALUATION

Attendance and Participation	-	10%
Assignment 1	-	20%
Term Paper	-	20%
Mid Semester	-	20%
Final Examination	-	30%
Total	**-**	**100%**

GRADING
USIU standard grading to apply

Note
1. I expect regular attendance of all classes. If and when you have to miss a lesson, the instructor **MUST** be informed **BEFORE HAND.** The policy is that if you miss **FIVE** classes you get an automatic **"F"** Grade irregardless of your score.
2. I reserve the right to reject assignment from students whose attendance I consider in my opinion a problem.
3. Plagiarism is punishable by score F in that particular assignment