This course is an invitation to know more about other cultures, about “the other,” about our world as one global community. We need to seriously examine the values, principles, beliefs, behaviors, and rules of others cultures beside our own. And in learning more of “the other,” we cannot help but gain further insight into ourselves, who we are, our values, what give our lives meaning, what makes us happy, what we are committed to live for, what we are willing to die for. [Adapted from Brannigan’s *Ethics Across Cultures*]

**General Course Goals:**

This course also aims to foster in students:

1. an understanding of different world-views guided by the use of intellectual traits characteristic of philosophers: intellectual perseverance, independent thinking, intellectual courage, intellectual integrity, confidence in reason, intellectual curiosity, intellectual humility, intellectual empathy, and so forth

2. an appreciation of the vital role world-views play in decision-making, both private and public

3. an appreciation of the importance of looking at an issue from a variety of points of view and of recognizing the complexity that surrounds most controversial issues

4. an appreciation of the power of human reasoning and a recognition of its limitations

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)**

1. To achieve a moral and sociopolitical understanding of the interconnectedness of nations and its effect on the world today

2. To display an awareness of social change as it is viewed from the perspective of others who are culturally different from himself/herself

3. To appreciate the ideas and beliefs of those who differ from an individual and to realize that no single group or culture has a monopoly on truth
4. To understand that all cultural differences stem from a particular culture’s basic concept of worldview or ultimate reality.

5. To recognize the nature of culture from an interdisciplinary framework and be able to describe and differentiate between ethnocentrism, cultural relativism, and stereotyping, among many other relevant concepts.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

New York Times

**SCHEDULE**

Week 1      July 6– July 9:
The case for cultural Diversity
Moral Relativism

Week 2      July 13– 16:
Critical Thinking
Environmental Ethics
Exam 1

Week 3      July 20 - 23
Non-Western World-view: Buddhist Ethics
Non-Western World-view: Islamic Ethics
Reflection # 1 Due

Week 4      July 27 - 30
Non-Western World-view: Confucian Harmony
Non-Western World-view: Ethics in Africa: To be is to Belong
Reflection # 2 Due
Exam 2

Week 5      August 3 - 6
Western World-view: Aristotle and Aquinas
Western World-view: Kant’s Deontology
Reflection # 3 Due
Grading System:

Tests: There are three tests worth 100 points each. Each test will be evaluated equally, including the final exam. There will be no make-up tests. Exams are take-home or in-class open book essay tests due one week after the distribution of the essays.

Reflections: You are required to complete four writing exercises during the second part of the Summer session. Select the sources/case studies for your four reflections from The New York Times. Analyze each of your four selections according to one Western and one Non-Western worldview studied in class. This is a 500 – 750 word essay, type-written, and double spaced. Each reflection is worth 25 points. Samples to guide you in the format of this writing will be provided to help you in your writing. Refer to due dates in the schedule of classes indicated above.

Seminars: It is expected that you have read, thought about, and written some notes on a particular reading assigned for the class. Three questions will guide you, A) What does the text say? B) What does the text mean? C) Why is this point important? Five (5) seminar sessions will be conducted during the semester. Your participation in each seminar is worth 20 points. Orientation and practice for seminar sessions will be provided as needed. There are no make-ups for missing a seminar session. Group and personal encouragement will be fostered at all times! This is the fifth grade of the course.

Open textbook exercises and/or activities: Completion of the open textbook exercises and activities is worth 100 points. The points will be determined according to a given exercise, (approximately 10 - 20 points each).
Seminar Form # __________
(An opportunity to discover new ideas,
To re-look at old ideas or
To develop insightful connections among ideas)

Theme/Topic/Chapter__________________________________________
Name: _______________________________________________________
Class: M/W/ T/TH       Date: ___________       PHIL __________

A) What does the text say? [Asking about facts; exact page and paragraph]

B) What does the text mean? [Searching for concepts or interpretations; explain or interpret the passage in your own words] This is your worldview.

C) Why is this point important? [Seeking for an evaluation or hypothesis; agree or disagree, or compare it to other ideas or experiences] Analysis; Provide evidence from ideas and theories examined in class.
Keeping record of your scores:

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*Textbook Exercises or quizzes (10 – 15 points each)*

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Exercises/Quiz Total: ________

GRAND TOTAL ___________
**Friendly Reminders about Classroom Etiquette**

**Homework** –
Late homework receives fewer points.

**Tardiness** –
Habitual tardiness is unacceptable.
If arriving late, enter the classroom through the back door as quietly as possible
Sign attendance form at the end of the class.

**Absences** –
No make-ups are available for either quizzes or exams.
Students are responsible for information, homework and announcements provided in class during absences. Contact a colleague from the class the same day of your absence.
Contact instructor on available hand-outs and/or material distributed in class before attending the following class session.

**Colleagues to contact in case of absence:**

Name __________________________________________________________
Cellular Phone _____________________
Home Phone _____________________ Best time to call __________
E-mail Address ____________________

Name __________________________________________________________
Cellular Phone _____________________
Home Phone _____________________ Best time to call __________
E-mail Address ____________________

Name __________________________________________________________
Cellular Phone _____________________
Home Phone _____________________ Best time to call __________
E-mail Address ____________________