Monday and Wednesday:  9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., SB 201

Office:  Sullivan Building, Room 203B, Suite 5
Telephone:  (978) 542-6298
E-mail address: kmallick@salemstate.edu
Website:  www.salemstate.edu/~kmallick

Office hours:  Mondays, 12:00 noon to 12:30 p.m.  and 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
            Wednesdays/Fridays, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
            and by appointment at other times

TEXTBOOKS:

    Hackett Publishing Company, 1999

COURSE OBJECTIVE:  The objective of this course is to 1) develop verbal and 
written analytical skill about ethical issues through the reading of a western and a 
nonwestern classical text, 2) learn fundamental principles, generalizations and 
theories and 3) learn to apply course material to improve rational thinking, 
problem-solving and decision-making.

ATTENDANCE:  Regular attendance is required because your participation in the 
course is an important aspect of the course development and your development in 
the course.  Attendance will be taken regularly.  Any more than 3 unexcused 
absence will lower your final grade.  If you have an excused absence, inform the 
instructor about that right after the class you are absent.  Anyone having too many 
unexcused absences will get an ‘F’ for the course.

Teaching method will be some lecture, more discussions of the readings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/GRADING:

Paper:  You are required to write two short papers (3-5 pages) doublspaced,  
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approximately 1200 words and one longer paper (5-7 pages) doublespaced, approximately 1800 words. Each short paper is worth 15 points, total=30 points and longer paper is worth 20 points, total of all three papers=50 points

Two short papers will be more like journal where you reflect on the readings of *Nicomachean Ethics*. They are not research papers. First one will be due after finishing the discussion of Book V and the second one will be due after finishing Book X of *Nicomachean Ethics*. Exact dates will be announced later in class. Due dates will be strictly followed. Following are some suggestions about the direction your paper could take but you are not restricted to these suggestions only:

1. Do not just summarize what you are reading.
2. What questions do you have about this part of the reading? What particular parts do you find puzzling or meaningless? Pose some tentative answers to or guesses about these questions.
3. Do you agree or disagree strongly with something in the reading? Simple agreement or disagreement is not enough. It is important that you give an account of your reasons in as much detail as possible. You should be prepared to list possible objections others might have to your point of view and then to answer those objections.
4. Do you find the reading simply boring? Explain why. Indicate why this particular reading fails to respond to what is most important and crucial in your life. Try to identify the truths or values being communicated here, and then go on to indicate why these truths or values have nothing to do with you. Be prepared to write an objective character portrait of the kind of person who would be turned on by this kind of reading.
5. What relationship does anything in this reading bear to our classroom discussions, or to unanswered questions raised in class discussion?

These two papers will be graded mainly on how much evidence it provides of thoughtful reading.

Longer paper will be a comparative analysis of *Nicomachean Ethics* and *Dhammapada*. Guidelines for this paper will be given later in class.

Group Presentation: Application of Aristotle’s virtue ethics to the following contemporary social issues: 15 points

Animal Rights, Capital Punishment, Physician Assisted Suicide, Cloning and War

Tests: Two pre-announced tests on the readings. Your writing skill will be tested. 15 points each, total=30 points

Participation: This will be based on overall participation in class discussions during the semester. If the student does not feel comfortable in participating in class discussion, s/he must submit written comments on the topics/articles discussed in
class to the instructor on a regular basis to show some evidence of her/his class participation. The instructor will call on students who are not participating in class discussions. 5 points

**There will be no final exam for this course.**

There is a subjective factor which is negligible in most instances, but which is used to enhance or lower a grade when there is a question about an individual’s overall participation in the course.

**LATE WORK:** Tests can be made up only when there is a legitimate reason for missing the test. Students should call my office (978) 542-6298 on the very day of the test indicating the reason for missing the test. One make up date will be scheduled within a week after each test and students are required to take the make up test only at that time.

Any student who does not fulfill all the requirements for the course will get an “I” (Incomplete) grade.

**Readings and class assignments** (Please note that students must finish the assigned reading before that class)

1/21/2004 Wednesday- Introduction to the course. What is Philosophy? What is Ethics?

1/26/2004 Monday- Read the Introduction, p. xiii – xxviii and Book I (Happiness), 1-5, pp. 1-5 from *Nicomachean Ethics.*

1/28/2004 Wednesday- Read Book I, 6-13, pp. 5-18 from *Nicomachean Ethics.*

2/2/2004 Monday- Continuation of discussion of Book I. Read Book II (Virtue of Character), 1-5, pp. 18-23 from *Nicomachean Ethics.*


2/9/2004 Monday- Read Book III (Preconditions of Virtue), 1-4, pp. 30-37 from *Nicomachean Ethics.*


2/16/2004 Monday- President’s day holiday. No class.

2/18/2004 Wednesday- Continuation of discussion of Book III. Read Book IV, 1-4, pp. 49-60 from *Nicomachean Ethics.*
2/23/2004 Monday- Read Book IV, 5-9, pp. 61-67 from *Nicomachean Ethics*.

2/25/2004 Wednesday- Test # 1 on Books I-IV from *Nicomachean Ethics*.

Assignment for the next few weeks will be given by 2/25/2004
Reading and class assignment:

3/1/04 Monday- Read Book V (Justice), 1-6, pp. 67-78, from *Nicomachean Ethics*.


3/8/04 Monday- Read Book V, 7-11, pp. 78-85, from *Nicomachean Ethics*. First Short Paper is due in class. Due date is strictly followed. If you cannot be in class today, send it by e-mail to me, kmallick@salemstate.edu as a word attachment today or before and cc. to your e-mail address for verification of the date you have sent the e-mail. Follow the instructions for the short paper from page 2 above of the course syllabus.

3/10/04 Wednesday- Group II debate (Animal Rights).

S P R I N G   B R E A K

3/22/04 Monday- Read Book VI (Virtues of Thought), 1-13, pp. 86-99, from *Nicomachean Ethics*

3/24/04 Wednesday- Continuation of discussion of Book VI. Read Book VII (Incontinence), 1-6, pp. 99-109 from *Nicomachean Ethics*.

3/29/04 Monday- Read Book VII, 7-14, pp. 109-119 from *Nicomachean Ethics*. Second Short Paper is due in class. Due date is strictly followed. If you cannot be in class today, send it by e-mail to me, kmallick@salemstate.edu as a word attachment today or before and cc. to your e-mail address for verification of the date you have sent the e-mail. Follow the instructions for the short paper from page 2 above of the course syllabus.

3/31/04 Wednesday- Read Book VIII (Friendship), 1-6, pp. 119-126 from *Nicomachean Ethics*.

4/5/04 Monday- Read Book VIII (Friendship), 7-14, pp. 127-137 from *Nicomachean Ethics*.

4/7/04 Wednesday- Test #2 on Books V-X of *Nicomachean Ethics*.

4/12/04 Monday- Read Book IX, 7-12, pp. 145-153 from *Nicomachean Ethics*. Written outline of the paper is due by this class.

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4/14/04 Wednesday- Read Book X (Pleasure), 1-9, pp. 153-171 from *Nicomachean Ethics*. Discussion of Alasdair MacIntyre’s view of Virtue Ethics in modern times.

4/19/04 Monday- Patriot’s Day Holiday. No class.
4/21/04 Wednesday- Read the Introduction on your own and also read pp. 75-105 from *Dhammapada*.

4/26/04 Monday- Read pp. 106-149 from *Dhammapada*.

4/28/04 Wednesday- Read pp. 150-199 from *Dhammapada* Due date of the longer paper. See the instructions for the longer paper below.

5/3/04 Monday- Continuation of discussion of *Dhammapada*

5/5/04 Wednesday- Continuation of discussion of *Dhammapada*. Last day of class.

**Group Presentation/Debate format:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Favor</th>
<th>Against</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(stating facts of the issue and introduce what each person is doing on your side—both sides have an introduction)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Position Statement</strong></td>
<td><strong>Position Statement</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a brief statement of the side that you are taking—both sides have a position statement)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Perspectives—three</strong></td>
<td><strong>Perspective—three</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(perspectives must be the same on both sides. State your ethical argument for the perspective selected)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conclusion</strong></td>
<td><strong>Conclusion</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(summarize what you have proved—both side)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rebuttal—speakers respond to each other’s point and then we open it up for class discussion.

Each student should do Intro and a perspective, position statement and a perspective and requirements:

On Wednesday before the week when your debate is scheduled, submit a short handout that you have found from the internet which will help your classmates to know about the issue. I will make copies for the class and distribute them on Monday in class.

A debate statement in the form of question or this vs. that for each group.

Every member of each group has to meet the instructor a week before the debate date. If everyone does not meet the instructor, points will be taken off.

**Grades will be based on how well you make your argument by relating it to the topics/issues discussed in class. If any of the above information is not clear, see the instructor.**

**DUE DATE AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE LONGER PAPER**
Due date for the paper is Wednesday, April 28, 2003 in class. One day grace period is Thursday, April 29, 2004 by 2:00 p.m. in my office, SB 203B, Suite 5. If you are dropping the paper in my office, make sure that you write my name (Krishna Mallick) on the cover page of the paper. Please save a copy of your paper in case it gets lost. Anyone submitting the paper later than the grace period will lose 5 points for being late. More points will be taken off the later the student is in turning in the paper.

Written outline of the paper with the two exact controversial issues (can be a very specific case or a general issue) that you have selected is due by Monday, April 12, 2004. This deadline will be strictly followed.

Approximate length of the paper—5-7 pages, double-spaced. 1800 words approximately

Make a comparative analysis of *Nicomachean Ethics* and *Dhammapada* showing the similarities and differences between the classical western and nonwestern views of ethics in the context of two current controversial ethical issues (can be a very specific case or a general issue).

In writing the paper, divide the paper into following sections:

I. State the thesis of your paper—what you are trying to prove and how you will prove it.

II. Give a brief analysis of *Nicomachean Ethics* and *Dhammapada* in separate paragraphs.

III. Give a brief analysis of the two current controversial issues that you have selected.

IV. Discuss both sides (pro and con) of each of the current issues that you have selected by relating and making references to *Nicomachean Ethics* and *Dhammapada* extensively.

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V. Make a critical analysis of the similarities and differences between *Nicomachean Ethics* and *Dhammapada* in the context of the two current controversial issues that you have selected. What did you find interesting about those similarities and differences? Are these two classical views applicable to today’s issues or not, etc.?

VI. In conclusion, summarize what you have proved in this paper.
Follow the rules related to Plagiarism. If you are quoting or summarizing someone, give a footnote or endnote, state the exact source of the case. If you are using materials from the Internet, state it in footnote/endnote. Also, give a bibliography of at least three sources that you have used in your paper outside of the textbook and handouts discussed in class.