I) Instructor Contact Info & Office Hours:
Office location is SCH 154a; Office Hours are 10-11 T/W. Email: chowski@uoregon.edu. Also available by appointment; speak to me before/after class, or email me to arrange meeting.

II) Course Objective: To explore the question: What makes a life beautiful?
Considerations of the good life: self-in-relation to other, authenticity & responsibility.
The objective of this course is to introduce traditional Western ethical theories and systems exploring their strengths and weaknesses for the lived life. Our ultimate goal is to understand our own ethical commitments in light of our own, as well as other traditions, and to explore tools for evaluating our commitments and those of others with whom we stand in relation. It will be a brief sampling, but it is the hope of this instructor that it will whet your appetite for further study and reflection as you craft your own vision of the good life.

III) Required Course Texts:
Cahn, Steven M. Exploring Ethics
Conrad, Joseph. Heart of Darkness
Eliot, George. Silas Marner
Class Packet, available at the Copy Shop on 13th and High Street

IV) Student Responsibility:
Students are responsible for all announcements in class and emails sent regarding changes in syllabus or other class information. Please check email regularly and be in contact with instructor regarding absences, excused or not, in order to stay informed. Assignments due on the day listed in schedule. E.g. “M: Cahn 200-245” means the reading should be completed before lecture on that Monday. There will be daily quizzes to ensure reading is completed for quality comprehension and a lively discussion. Students are responsible for knowing and fulfilling the University of Oregon’s Academic Honesty Policy and will receive the consequences of any violations. Info found at: http://tep.uoregon.edu/workshops/teachertraining/learnercentered/syllabus/academicdishonesty.html

Papers & Exams (70%)
Reflective Analysis (2 @ 10% = 20%), Argumentative Essay 20%. Topics & length will be explained in lecture. Format for essay (also strictly enforced) must be 12pt Times Roman font or reasonable equivalent, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins only, include, name, class, and beg page 2, pg #. Grading scale will follow departmental standards and instructor rubric which will be distributed and explicated in class. Exam 1 is worth 15% and Exam 2 is 15%.

Ethical Reflections (2 @ 2.5% = 5%)
Ethics is not a merely intellectual exploration. It requires personal engagement. To facilitate your engagement with the ideas, you are asked to reflect on your own ethical commitments at the beginning of the term and at the end of the term. You will choose an ethical project to work on this term, reflect on the experience in the second reflection in light of the readings and discussions. Reflections should be no less than 1p and no more than 2pgs, double-spaced, 12pt font, 1” margins.

Debates (5%)
You will join a debate team and build a case defending your view on an issue from Cahn’s text (excluding abortion—no new arguments available). Need to use good reasoning and have textual support. Each member of team will be graded—no free riders.
Participation & Quizzes (10 + 10=20%)

Students are expected to actively engage in the discourse of the class. Varieties of opportunities are provided for students who may or may not prefer speaking in large groups (e.g. small group work). If participation is a problem, it is expected that the student will visit with the instructor during office hours to address it. Please inform instructor of absences and note that students are responsible for all announcements made in lecture and via emails. Daily quizzes will be included in this area of grades.

V) Schedule of Readings and Lecture Themes

Readings and assignments subject to change which will be announced in lecture, or via email. Students are responsible for keeping current. Pick up course packet at Copy Shop: 539 E 13th Ave, 541-485-6253.

Week 1: June 22-26
M Intro to the Course & Ethical Philosophy
T Ethics Reflection Due; Cahn: Introductory Chapters 1-3,5,7: Intro to Ethics; Conrad 1st 25p
W Cahn: Chs 6, 8-11; Conrad next 25 p (1899)
H Cahn: Chs 12-13; Deontology/Consequentialism: Duty Ethics; Arjuna’s dilemma
F Cahn: Chs 14-15; Utilitarianism; Complete Heart of Darkness; (Video: Bld D)

Week 2: June 29–July 2
M Ref Analysis 1 Due: Using Conrad analyze Deontology & Utilitarianism; Cahn: Ch 16
T Cahn: Chs 17-18; Virtue Ethics, Care Ethics
W Cahn: 19-20; Care Ethics; Social & Justice as Fairness
H CP Haidt: ix-22;
F Independence Day Observed—No Class

Week 3: July 6-10
M CP Haidt: ix-22;
T CP Nussbaum from Love’s Knowledge;
W Love’s Knowledge; Nicomachean Ethics (NE) Introduction
H NE Book 1.1-9 (p1-15) (Austen)
F NE Book 1.10-2.7 (p16-30); (Austen)

Week 4: July 13-17
M NE Book 2.8-9; (Austen)
T NE 6: ch1-7
W Ref Analysis 2 Due: Using Austen discuss Virtue and Care Ethics;
H Books 6.7-13;
F NE 7:1-3; Prep Midterm

Week 5: July 20-24; Silas Marner (read all week)
M Midterm Exam
T NE Books 8:1-5; 9:5,8,9 (Silas Marner)
W CP James “The Moral Philosopher & the Moral Life”; (Silas Marner-1861)
H CP Buddhist 4 Noble Truths, 8-fold Path, Interdependence; (Silas Marner)
F CP Jesus of Nazareth “The Good Samaritan”; Kierkegaard Works of Love
**Week 6:** July 27-31; *Silas Marner* **(read all week)**

- **M** CP Nietzsche “Thus Spoke...”; (Silas Marner)
- **T** CP Sartre “Existentialism as a Humanism”; (Silas Marner)
- **W** CP Beauvoir *The Ethics of Ambiguity*; (Sagacity: “Avatar: The Last Airbender” Nickelodeon)
- **H** CP Beauvoir *The Ethics of Ambiguity*; (Silas Marner)
- **F** Cahn Chs 27-28; (Silas Marner); **Ethical Debates**

**Week 7:** August 3-7

- **M** Essay Due: Utilizing Silas Marner, argue for an ethical approach that you think good & just.
- **T** CP Haidt Chs 10-11;
- **W** CP Buber *I and Thou, Silas Marner*
- **H** CP Thich Nhat Hanh *Being Peace*; Cahn Ch 4
- **F** Ethical Debates

**Week 8:** August 10-13

- **M** Cahn Chs 38-39; **Ethical Debates**
- **T** Cahn 48-50
- **W** Exam 2 prep
- **H** Exam 2; **Ethics Reflection 2 Due:** Describe your term’s ethical project and how it went.

---

¹ Consider: *What makes a life beautiful?*