The second semester of this course focuses on the origins of ideas, particularly ideas about morality, ethics, good and evil, justice, free will, redemption. How are such ideas linked to ideas about the origins of the universe, of the human species, of society/civilization/culture, of human identity and individuality? And how do ideas, once originated, develop influence, change, become transformed over time? How are ideas about morality related to conceptions of human freedom? How do you develop ideas about morality and what role do they play in your life? Our goal is to expand our ability to frame questions, think both critically and with originality, and explore together issues central to all human cultures.

**Required Reading** (Ass assigned texts are available in the FIU Bookstore. It helps if we all use the same edition. Please bring texts to class on the days they are assigned for discussion.)

- Book of Job, King James Version of the Bible (available on the web at [http://etext.lib.virginia.edu](http://etext.lib.virginia.edu)) (Viking
- Sophocles, *Antigone* (U Chicago Press, David Greene translation)
- Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* (Cambridge Press, Mary Gregor Translation)
- Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil* (Viking Penguin Press, R J Hollingdale Translation)

**Class Schedule**

- 1/7 Introduction to IDH 1002, Some review of IDH 1001, Thinking about projects
- 1/14 Read and discuss the Book of Job
- 1/21 Read and discuss *Antigone*
- 1/28 Guest Lecturer Professor Ron Fisher (Psychology) on Human Cognition; Read and discuss Kant’s *Groundwork*, pp.1-66
- 2/4 Guest lecturer Professor Kenneth Rogerson (Philosophy) on Kant’s theory of ethics
- 2/11 Read and discuss Introduction to Kant’s *Groundwork*, p.vii-xxx, **Paper I due**
- 2/18 Guest Lecturer Professor Barbara Watts (Art History) on Visions of Heaven and
Hell, Reward and Punishment
2/25 Honors College Lecture at UP, GC140 at 2PM Professor Sally Boysen, expert on primate cognition
3/3 Read and discuss Beyond Good and Evil
3/10 Film “Blade Runner”
3/17 Read and discuss Crime and Punishment, Paper II due
3/24 SPRING BREAK
3/31 Film “Crimes and Misdemeanors”
4/7 Group Project Presentations
4/14 Group Project Presentations and Wrap-Up, Individual Project Papers due

Note: All guest lectures are tentative. It may be necessary to make changes in the printed schedule according to guests’ availability.

Class Philosophy

This class is very much a collective endeavor. Attendance and participation are important and will form part of your grade. We will discuss together what we read and each student is expected to come to class prepared and to participate in the discussion. Reading is due on the day assigned and is intended to form the basis of stimulating and thoughtful discussion. Students are responsible not just to themselves, but also to all other students in the class. The class can only be successful to the extent that everyone prepares and participates. Different students may have very different reactions to, and interpretations of, what we read. These differences help us to think more clearly and comprehensively.

Assignments – We will discuss these in more detail in class.

1. Journals – 20% of your grade – You will keep a journal for each reading assignment and each film shown in class. Each journal entry should be approximately 1 page (longer is OK if you are bursting with ideas) and should be the place where you reflect on what you have read and seen, react to it, ask questions you would like to discuss further or questions about things you do not understand. I will collect the journal entries before each class where a reading assignment is due and return them the following class (in the case of film journal entries the journal is due the class after we see the film). These will not be graded, only checked off (I will note, however, if they are shallow or give no evidence of having done the reading); they will form a basis for class discussion. It helps to get discussion going when you have written down your responses to the reading in advance.

2. Paper I – 20% of grade – 5 pages – Think about the primary ethical issues presented by the Book of Job and Kant’s Groundwork. Find a contemporary event or ethical issue from the news, popular culture, film, art, music, or your life and relate what you have read to the contemporary situation.
3. Paper II – 20% of grade – 5 pages – Think about the ways that Nietzsche and Dostoevsky grapple with questions of morality and its underpinnings. Write a paper in which you relate their ideas and concerns to some issue of contemporary morality of concern to you.

4. Group Project – 20% of grade –

5. Individual Project Paper – 20% of grade –

In grading I will also take into account your class participation which can raise or lower your grade by one notch, e.g. from B to B+ or B to B-.

You are expected to be aware of, and strictly adhere to, the university’s Code of Academic Integrity which may be found in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is defined as submitting as your own something written in whole or in part by someone else. It is a serious offense and, if confirmed, could result in failure in the course and expulsion from the honors College.

And, yes, I know some of this reading is “hard”. “Challenging” might be a better word to describe what we are reading. We will talk about it in class. All of the reading is subject to multiple interpretations, even conflicting and contradictory interpretations. Don’t be afraid to ask questions and don’t be timid about speaking up. Challenging the reading may be, but it takes us into the arena of the big questions. What could be more satisfying!