The second semester of this course will focus on the theme of Morality/Ethics. How is morality defined? How do ideas about morality relate to the ideas we encountered in Fall semester about origins, cosmology, ontology, evolution, class society, human psychology, social order/ civilization/culture. How do we know/decide what is right and wrong? How do ideas about morality develop, change, become transformed over time, and what role do they play in our lives? How do we decide what is right or wrong? Our goal is to expand our ability to frame questions, think both critically and creatively, and explore together issues central to all human cultures.

**Required Reading** (All 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.)

(Some of the reading is challenging, especially if you are not used to reading philosophical texts. I recommend that you approach it in short bites. Read a segment each day instead of leaving it in one big hunk the night before the reading is due.)

Plato, *Trial and Death of Socrates*, Dover, ISBN#9780486270661

**Class Schedule**
1/7 Introduction to IDH 1002; Some review of IDH 1001; READ: Genesis chapter 4 (Cain and Abel) Several biblical texts including King James Version may be found online at [http://etext.lib.virginia.edu](http://etext.lib.virginia.edu)
1/14 READ: Trial and Death of Socrates
1/21 READ: *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*
128 READ: *Beyond Good and Evil*
2/4 READ: Film #1: “Antigone”
2/11 Discussion of creative projects prospectus
2/18 READ: *Crime and Punishment*
2/25 Film #2: “Do the Right Thing”
3/4  **READ:** Beloved, Paper #1 due
3/11  Film #3: “Mystic River” (Evening Lecture by Eric Peterson)
3/18  **SPRING BREAK**
3/25  Film #4: “L’Enfant,” Paper #2 Due
4/1  Film: “A Doll’s House
4/8  **Student Presentations**
4/15  **Student Presentations**
4/22  Course Wrap-Up, IDH1001 and 1002

(Syllabus is subject to change as the semester progresses)

**Other Important Dates**
3/18  Spring Break, No class
3/26  SRAI Conference at UP

**Class Philosophy**
This class is very much a collective endeavor. We will discuss together what we read and each student is expected to come 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 only 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.

**Honor in Honors**
In The Honors College, the term “honor” refers both to academic accomplishment and character. Students in Honors should therefore adhere to, and be held to, the highest standards of personal academic accountability. Academic dishonesty in any form, including plagiarism, is antithetical to the very definition of being an Honors student at FIU. Academic misconduct is a violation of the University Code of Standards, the Code of Academic Integrity, the ethical relationship between the student and the academic community, and especially between the student and the instructor. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the Honors College policy on plagiarism which may be found at [http://honors.fiu.edu/current_policy_plagiarism.html](http://honors.fiu.edu/current_policy_plagiarism.html).

**Assignments**
1. Journals – 10% of your grade – You will keep a journal for each reading assignment. 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, 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 at the start of each class where a reading assignment is due and return them the following class. These will not be graded, only checked off (I will note, however, if they are shallow or give no indication 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. Your
journal should also be very useful in helping you to think about what you want to say in Paper #1. For each reading assignment bring to class one question that you want to the class to discuss.

2. Paper #1-On Plato, Kant, Nietzsche, Dostoevsky, Morrison-If done with any care, this reading should have made you think, probably in many directions. Let that thinking guide you in writing a reflective and/or analytical essay that incorporates your reading. Make it interesting, thoughtful, original. It can be a personal essay or a more academic one. In either case be sure to have a point. Don’t make me ask you what your paper was about. And, if an analytical essay, it should be a clear thesis. This assignment differs from those we did in IDH1001 in that it gives you much more freedom to decide what you want to write about. You do not need to include all of the reading assignments in your essay (I have other ways of determining whether or not you did the reading.) You should, however, include at least one of the philosophical readings (Plato, Kant, Nietzsche) and one of the literary ones (Dostoevsky, Morrison.) 7-8 pages, due March 4.

3. Paper #2-On Films #1, 2, 3, and 4 - Think about the ways in which these three films define morality and immorality. Can you discern a guiding philosophy behind these films? Do they view morality differently, the same? Write a thoughtful essay in which you discuss these issues. As much as possible relate the films to one or more of the readings for IDH1001/1002. 5 pages, due April 1.

3. Final Project and Presentation – Your final project is a creative presentation. Choose some ethical issue and present it in a creative format for the class. You may do an individual or group project to be presented to the class on April 8 or 15. The project should be accompanied by a one page statement of the ethical issue, your goal in presentation and why you chose the particular creative format. We will talk more about this assignment in class.

4. Lecture/Event assignment – Attend the Eric Peterson lecture on March 11 and one other lecture or event that relates to the theme of morality (check with me if you aren’t sure about the appropriateness of an event.) Write a one page response for each event on how the topic of the lecture/event relates to the issue of morality.

Grading
Journal 10%
Paper #1 30%
Paper #2 25%
Lecture/Event Assignment 5%
Final Project and Presentation 30%