

ETHICAL ISSUES ALBUM

OVERVIEW

Ethical issues arise in virtually all areas of life, and they are blatantly presented to us almost any time we are exposed to the news. Example articles dealing with current ethical issues (such as profiling, capital punishment, food waste, etc.) are hyperlinked in the assignment schedule on the [syllabus](#). Students may draw inspiration from these examples in order to select their own articles for discussion, but their chosen articles must be current—i.e., articles must not be dated earlier than 08.28.13.

Throughout the semester, each student will turn in 6 individual album entries, discussing the various moral principles encountered in assigned materials. Each entry will focus on the student's engagement with a contemporary ethical issue in the news. By means of the album, students will critically evaluate and clarify their own positions on chosen issues in a dialogue with moral theorists.



In order to receive a grade on this assignment, students must turn in printed copies of album entries on the days they are assigned. Individual entries must also be [e-mailed to the instructor](#) on their due dates. The album (with 6 entries, discussing 10 ethical frameworks) must be received by e-mail and be uploaded to Blackboard by midnight Friday, 12.06.13.

NOTE: Students will not upload individual album entries to Blackboard. Only the final, compiled album will be uploaded to [Blackboard](#). Students' ethical issues albums will be available there for examination by entities or academic committees, in accordance with university regulations. Students should keep in mind that if they plagiarize, the evidence will thus become a matter of public record.

NOTE ALSO: Only those students who complete all assignments as requested will be eligible to receive the bonus points mentioned in the syllabus (e.g., for perfect attendance). All others will be ineligible.

FORMAT

Album entries must be double-spaced, in 12-pt Calibri font, with one-inch margins all around (top, bottom, left, and right). Use 0-pt spacing before and after paragraphs. ***[Single-space the embedded text of online articles only.]*** If possible, printouts should have print on both sides of the pages.

To avoid automatic point deductions, students must adhere to these guidelines:

Students in Section 007, title the first entry: **007 Entry 01 – Student’s Last Name**

Use 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, and 10 for the rest of the entries.

Title the compiled album: **007 Album – Student’s Last Name**

Students in Section 008, title the first entry: **008 Entry 01 – Student’s Last Name**

Same as above for Section 007

Students must use this same title format in the subject line of their e-mail.

CONTENT

Each album entry must be prefaced with a working hyperlink to an article posted online (no earlier than 08.28.13) regarding a contemporary ethical issue. The text of the online article (or the most essential section, if the article is more than a couple of pages in length) must also be copied and pasted into the preface of each album entry. The text of the discussed article must be single-spaced and corrected to fit one-inch margins. Insert a page break between the text of the article and the analysis that follows.

Not counting the embedded text of the article, students’ analysis of the contemporary ethical issue covered in each entry must be **at least three pages in length but not more than five.**

Students must analyze ethical issues in terms of the moral principles associated with the following ethical frameworks encountered in the assigned readings:

(1) cultural relativism, (2) ethical subjectivism, (3) ethical egoism, (4) social contract theory, (5) Kantian ethics, (6) utilitarianism, (7) virtue ethics, (8) the ethics of care, (9) environmental ethics, (10) animal ethics.

The album must contain 6 entries, each focusing specifically on two of the ethical frameworks listed above. Each ethical framework must be compared/contrasted with one other ethical framework throughout the analysis. **Students must also specifically cite at least two assigned readings that are relevant to the discussion. The two citations must relate to the ethical frameworks under analysis.** Include a footnote with author, title, source, page #, etc. For each ethical issue that is analyzed, students should take the following steps:

- a. **Define precisely the ethical issue at stake.** If there are several issues involved, focus on the most important one. Formulate the issue as a conflict of claims or moral principles—i.e., acknowledge more than one side.
- b. **Clarify the conflict of claims by representing the views of at least two sides.** State which claim or claims are being upheld by the various parties, which are being rejected, and why these claims are upheld or rejected—i.e., bring moral principles into play.

- c. **Offer reasons for supporting each side's position, based on an application of the moral principles encountered in the readings.** If the ethical issue under consideration reveals in some way the inadequacy of the applied principles, please state that as well.
- d. **Offer reasons for rejecting each side's position** (also based on moral principles) to the position that is supported in step (c).
- e. **Conclude by defending your own position on the issue under consideration.** Take a side and remember to provide good reasons for supporting that side. Apply moral principles.

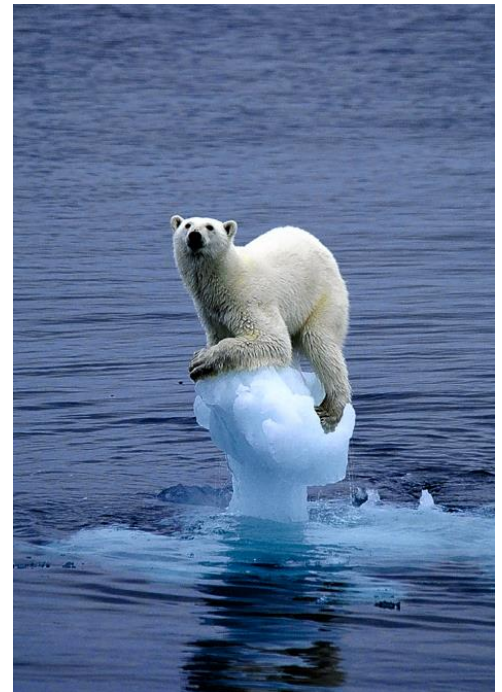
ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

For each date listed below, compare/contrast two of the listed ethical frameworks. Ethical frameworks and their associated moral principles can be discussed in more than one album entry, but each ethical framework must receive a detailed analysis in at least one of the six album entries. Remember that at least two relevant assigned readings must be specifically referenced in the discussion of each issue. Refer to the numbers below that correspond to the ethical frameworks:

(1) cultural relativism, (2) ethical subjectivism, (3) ethical egoism, (4) social contract theory, (5) Kantian ethics, (6) utilitarianism, (7) virtue ethics, (8) the ethics of care, (9) environmental ethics, (10) animal ethics.

- M 09.23 [Ethical Issues Album Entry #1 Due] **by e-mail & printout**
(1), (2), (3) [10 points]
- M 09.30 [Ethical Issues Album Entry #2 Due] **by e-mail & printout**
(1), (2), (3), (4) [10 points]
- M 10.14 [Ethical Issues Album Entry #3 Due] **by e-mail & printout**
(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) [20 points]
- M 11.04 [Ethical Issues Album Entry #4 Due] **by e-mail & printout**
(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8) [20 points]
- M 11.18 [Ethical Issues Album Entry #5 Due] **by e-mail & printout**
(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9) [20 points]
- M 12.02 [Ethical Issues Album Entry #6 Due] **by e-mail & printout**
(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10) [20 points]
- F 12.06 [Ethical Issues Album Due]

Due by midnight — by e-mail & via Blackboard.



GRADING

The ethical issues album accounts for 20% of the student's final grade. There are 6 assigned album entries, the first two worth 10 points each (10% of the album's overall grade) and the last four worth 20 points each (20% of the album's overall grade).

Albums will be evaluated on the quantity and diversity of ethical issues analyzed as well as on the quality of clarifications, observations, and reasoning provided. Students are expected to exhibit college-level proficiency in English. Students who struggle with spelling or grammar are advised to make use of the free services provided by UK's Writing Center, located in the W. T. Young Library:

<http://wrđ.as.uky.edu/writing-center>.

REASONS FOR POINT DEDUCTIONS: Failure to hyperlink article and to embed its text, failure to format correctly, failure to meet minimum page-length requirements, failure to specifically reference at least two relevant assigned readings, failure to critically compare/contrast at least two ethical frameworks and their associated moral principles, failure to demonstrate comprehension of such frameworks and principles, failure to use correct grammar and spelling, etc.

HYPOTHETICAL GRADING CONSIDERATIONS: Suppose that a student receives a score of 5 on the first album entry. Since it is worth 10% of the album's overall grade, 5 points will thus be deducted from the album's 100, dropping the album's overall score to 95. Since the album is worth 20% of the final grade in this course, such a five-point deduction will lower the final grade by exactly 1 point. However, 6 album entries, each with poor scores, will cumulatively lower the album's overall score. A score of 50 on the album will lower the student's final grade in this course by 10 points—dropping it from 100 to 90.

In other words, it is possible for a student to have a failing grade on this assignment and still receive an A in this course—provided that the student earns perfect scores on all other graded elements and has no more than two unexcused absences. Needless to say, students are encouraged to always aim for the highest grade possible on every assignment.



Please refer to the document entitled [Sample Album Entry with Comments](#) for some helpful information. From this document, students should be able to understand the manner in which the entries will be graded and how they can be improved upon.