

COURSE SYLLABUS

1. Department and Number: EPS 291
2. Credits: 3
3. Title: COMMUNITY AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT
4. Co-requisite: none
5. Bulletin Description: The course covers moral and psychological dimensions pertaining to character development as it occurs in communities. Topics include contemporary theory and research regarding perspectives on virtue and morality, states of character, ethical decision making, and character development. The reciprocal relationships between character and community will be a central theme in exploring ethical issues that arise in working with individuals, institutions, and communities. Theory and research will be linked to relevant applications.
6. Faculty Member: Blaine J. Fowers, Ph.D.
Merrick 319D
Telephone: 305-284-5261
Email: bfowers@miami.edu

Office hours:
Thursday 2-4 and by appointment
7. Objectives:
Students will demonstrate knowledge of:
 - a. the central features of character;
 - b. character development;
 - c. the five types of character;
 - d. character strengths or virtues;
 - e. practical wisdom;
 - f. individual and shared goods;
 - g. instrumental and constitutive goods;
 - h. the roles of the family and community in character development;
 - i. the ways that character affects the community

8. REQUIRED READINGS:

Fowers, B. J. (2005). *Virtue and psychology: Pursuing excellence in ordinary practices*. Washington, DC: APA Press. ISBN-10: 1591472512 (\$39.95)

Pakaluk, M. (2005). *Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics: An introduction*. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press. ISBN-10: 0521520681 (\$42.00)

Course readings in Blackboard site.

9. COURSE ACTIVITIES AND REQUIREMENTS:

a. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION. Learning in this course will grow out of mastery of the readings coupled with personal reflection and application. Active participation in class will facilitate this process greatly. Coming to class prepared will allow you to participate in an informed and interesting way. Therefore, students are expected to complete all scheduled readings in advance. Therefore, attendance and informed participation form an important part of your grade. I will be using iclickers on a regular basis. This will allow me to ask you questions and engage you throughout the class. Your attendance and participation grade will be based on your "clicked" responses. You need to purchase a clicker (available at UM bookstore) and bring it to every class session. Please have your clicker with you when you come to the first class. The same clicker can be used for any number of classes and from semester to semester. If you have more than one class where clickers are used, you need only purchase it once. You must register your clicker on the course Blackboard site for each course in which you are using the clicker.

Please note: You must have your clicker for your attendance/participation grade to be recorded for each class session. Please be sure to have it with you in every class session as it is the only way in which I will record your attendance.

b. CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT EXERCISES. Students will choose four of the six exercises and write a one page (12 point font, 1.5 spacing, 1 inch margins) paper on each of the selected exercises. The papers involve your reflections on your experience with the exercise. You must turn in your written reflection by the due date on the syllabus. You will find instructions for the assignments on the course Blackboard site.

- (1) Character structure
- (2) Goal orientation
- (3) Gratitude exercise
- (4) Community and character
- (5) Practical wisdom
- (6) The obituary

c. FINAL PAPER OR PROJECT. You will have a choice between writing a 10 page paper on a specific virtue or doing a 20-30 minute group presentation to the class on a specific virtue. Papers will be written individually and the presentation can be done in groups of 2-4 students. This project will involve gathering information about a specific virtue that goes beyond the material presented in the lecture and texts. Details of the paper and project requirements will be discussed in class and will be posted on Blackboard.

d. MID-TERM AND FINAL EXAMINATIONS. The mid-term and final exams will focus on mastery of the reading and lecture material. There will be various levels of learning assessed from knowledge to application, analysis, and synthesis. The final will be cumulative.

10. EVALUATION PROCEDURES:

(a)	Attendance and participation	15%
(b)	Reflection papers	15%
(c)	Mid-term	25%
(d)	Paper or presentation	20%
(e)	Final exam	25%

Final Examination: Wednesday, May 9, 11:00-1:30

11. COURSE POLICIES:

Please note: I will be using iclickers on a regular basis. You can purchase an iclicker at the UM bookstore and can use the same one for different courses that require it. Please be sure to purchase an iclicker and bring it to every class.

Presentations and additional readings will be posted on Blackboard under "Course Documents". Power point presentations will be posted in advance for you to download. I frequently update the slides a day or so prior to class, so please check Blackboard the night before or the morning of class. Additional readings are also available on Blackboard. Please follow the course schedule at the end of the syllabus and make sure to complete the readings on time.

Expected Behavior. You are expected to arrive for class on time. If you must be late to class or leave early because of other responsibilities, please see me. It is expected that you will not talk during class while others are talking. **Please do not make or receive phone calls or text during class. Please do not use your computer during class time.**

Students with Disabilities. The University of Miami seeks to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need special accommodations, make sure

that these are documented with Academic Resources so that I can assist you. Please visit the following website for more information about obtaining documentation and requesting reasonable accommodation

<http://www.umarc.miami.edu/>

Honor Codes: Academic Honesty/Plagiarism Statement. The University of Miami Honor Code governs all work in this course and implies that what is presented to the instructor as the students' own work is in fact in their own words. It is imperative that students are careful not to "borrow" phrases or sentences from source material. This is plagiarism and will result in a zero for that assignment and possibly more extensive consequences. Plagiarism is the extraction of material from a source without acknowledgement of the source. You are encouraged to consult a variety of sources for your papers, but you need to rephrase in your own words the material you read. When you paraphrase someone, you must cite them as a reference. When you use someone else's words, you must place quotation marks around the words you use and cite them as a reference. Plagiarism is a very severe violation of the honor code and of standards of academic integrity.

http://www6.miami.edu/UMH/CDA/UMH_Main/0,1770,2415-1;10933-2,00.html

Academic Grievances. Any student who believes he or she has been treated unfairly in academic matters should consult with the chairperson of the department or his or her associate dean to discuss the situation and to obtain information about relevant grievance procedures.

<http://www6.miami.edu/ombudsperson/>

Students' rights and responsibilities. Information about your rights as a student at University of Miami can be found at the following web site:

http://www6.miami.edu/UMH/CDA/UMH_Main/0,1770,2415-1;2403-2,00.html

Students are strongly encouraged to retain this and all syllabi. They may be needed for a variety of reasons in the future.

12. DATE OF SYLLABUS: JANUARY, 2012

EPS 291

TOPICS AND READINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Jan. 17	Introduction	
Jan. 19	Eudaimonia	Fowers, The Idea of a Flourishing Life
Jan. 24	Character	Pakaluk, pp. 67-85
Jan. 26	Virtue & Goodness	Fowers, Virtue & Psychology Ch. 1 & 2
Jan. 31 & Feb. 2	Character Strengths	Pakaluk, pp. 87-94, 98-116
	VIA assignment due 2-2-2012	
Feb. 7 & 9	Constitutive Goods	Fowers, Virtue & Psychology Ch. 3
Feb. 14	Shared Goods	Fowers, Virtue & Psychology Ch. 4
	Goal Orientation assignment due 2-14-2012	
Feb. 16 & 21	Character and Community	Bellah et al., Ch. 1, 2
	Proposal for final paper or presentation due 2-21-2012	
Feb. 23 & 28	Character Development	Kilpatrick, Telling Stories Sommers, What College Students Don't Know
	Character and community assignment due 2-28-2012	
March 1	Character Education	Damon, Positive Youth Development Berkowitz & Bier, Research Based Character Education Power, Building a Democratic Community
March 6	Courage	Pakaluk, pp. 151-166
March 8	Mid-term	

SPRING BREAK

March 20	Generosity	Pakaluk, pp. 172-179
Outline of final paper or presentation due 3-20-2012		
March 22	Friendship	Pakaluk, Ch. 9
March 27	Temperance	Pakaluk, pp. 166-172
March 29	Justice	Pakaluk, Ch. 6
April 3	Loyalty	Fletcher, Loyalty
April 5 & 10	Openness to the Other	Sacks, Ch. 1 & 3
Gratitude assignment due 4-10-2012		
April 12 & 17	Practical Wisdom	Fowers, Virtue & Psychology Ch. 5
References for final paper or presentation due 4-17-2012		
April 19	A Complete Life	Fowers, A Complete Life
Practical Wisdom assignment due 4-19-2012		
April 24 & 26	Group Presentations	
Obituary assignment due 4-26-2012		
Final paper due 5-1-2012 (if applicable)		

Final Examination: Wednesday, May 9, 11:00-1:30