

Ethics Institute Newsletter

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Films in the Ethics Series

All films are scheduled to begin at 6pm.

- Monday, Nov. 16, "Whose Life Is It Anyway?"
- Monday, January 25, "Trade"
- Monday, Feb. 15, "Crash"
- Monday, Mar. 15, "Glengarry Glen Ross"
- Monday, Apr. 19, "Dr. Doolittle 2"

Asa Mahan's Ethics: Rev. Chris Momany

This month's Institute for Ethics Brown Bag features Rev. Dr. Chris Momany, Adrian College chaplain.

On Thursday, March 25, Rev. Momany will introduce us to Asa Mahan's ethics in a presentation entitled, "The Theology of Love in the Life of Asa Mahan."

This session places the Institute of Ethics into the framework of the College's founding in this, the 150th anniversary, of Adrian College.

Adrian College is the child of antebellum reform traditions. The particular expression of Protestant revivalism and social justice emanating from New York State's "Burned-Over District" found fertile soil in Lenawee County, Michigan. Like a journey along the Erie Canal, the ethical

heritage of Adrian College from New York State (though by way of the Western Reserve). This heritage was by a spiritual commitment to the idea of "Christian Perfection" and a philosophical commitment to the unqualified dignity of people. The brown bag talk will share, in accessible form, the context of Mahan's theological principles and they engaged his philosophical and social ethic. It will also suggest ways this tradition may find its voice today

After Rev. Momany's presentation there is one remaining Brown Bag. On Thursday, April 22, are invited to take a break from classes and exam preparation to hear Dr. Melissa Stewart give an overview of "Environmental Ethics."



Rev. Dr. Chris Momany, Adrian College Chaplain, Adjunct Faculty, Department of Philosophy / Religion

The series next year will focus on the way in which ethics is woven into the professions. The presenters will be current Adrian College faculty members.

We also hope to expand the Brown Bags to the larger Lenawee County citizenry and, perhaps, have some speakers from outside the college.

Ethics Film Series: "Glengarry Glen Ross", Monday, March 15, 6pm

The next Institute for Ethics film series presentation is "Glengarry Glen Ross." It will be shown Monday, March 15, at 6:00 in Knight Auditorium in Valade Hall.

The movie centers around a sales contest in which the

salespeople are promised a great prize for the one who wins.

Contestants face ethical dilemmas as they compete against each other.

The film features a host of big-name Hollywood actors including Alec Baldwin and Kevin Spacey.

See posters around campus for reminders.

Brown Bag Schedule:

- Sept. 24, Dr. James Spence
- Oct. 22, Dr. Tony Coumoundouros
- Nov. 5, Prof. Nathan Goetting*
- Dec. 1, Dr. Fritz Detwiler
- Jan. 28, Prof. Bill Bachman
- Feb. 25, Dr. Sheri Bleam
- Mar. 18, Rev. Dr. Chris Momany
- Apr. 22, Dr. Melissa Stewart

Times and Location:

- Knight Auditorium, Valade Hall
- 12:10—12:45. Twenty-minute presentations. Fifteen minute Q&A.

“His is happy whose circumstances suit his temper but he is more excellent who can suit his temper to any circumstances.”

Ethics Film Series cont.

The remaining film in the series is:

* **April 19**, "Dr. Doolittle 2" (Melissa Stewart and Janet Salzwedel)

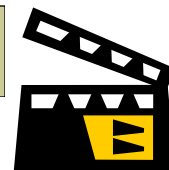
Due to copyright issues, the film series is open only to the Adrian College community.

Please contact Dr. Scott Elliott at selliot@adrian.edu if you would like a formal part in the discussion.

The Institute for Ethics welcomes ideas for films from other campus groups. The films must directly deal with

an ethical issue / problem / dilemma facing the contemporary world.

Suggestions for next year's Film series are particularly welcomed. All films will be followed by an open discussion.



An Opportunity for Faculty — Earn Money! (2nd notice)

The Adrian College Institute of Ethics is launching a new curriculum development opportunity for those of faculty who want to begin infusing ethical discourse into your departmental courses.

This initiative is not intended to be an “add-on” to already full course curricula and syllabi. Rather, the goal is to integrate ethical reflection of already existing course materials.

Beginning now, the Institute for Ethics offers consultation to individual faculty member and / or departments through Fritz Detwiler, Jim Spence, and Tony Coumoundouros.

We want you to contribute to

the development of ethical discourse across the campus and in the disciplines by helping you build an approach and focus that is appropriate for your needs. We are not going to “tell you what to do,” we will help you think through what you want to do.

Consultation services may include, but are not limited to, consultation about ethical theories and their application to a given discipline, developing models by which to analyze ethical questions specific to a discipline or topic, developing case studies for use in the classroom, assisting in the creation of a section of a course focused specifically on ethics, advising on the syllabus, recommending relevant

readings, and creating a document with background information on ethical analysis in the specific subject.

Faculty who choose to integrate ethical reflection into their courses using the institutes services will receive a stipend of \$100 through the Institute.

Faculty members who do accomplish integration will be given the opportunity to present their methods and results to the College through an Ethics Brown Bag presentation next academic year. This also carries a stipend.

A similar initiative for staff at Adrian College will be launched in the near future.

Common approaches to Ethical Reflection

Ethics has to do with our conceptions of what constitutes a “good” life. It asks us to consider what is the “right” thing to do when confronted by a moral problem.

But how do we determine what constitutes the good life? At a minimum, surely we can agree with Dean Wormer's assessment in *Animal House* that “fat drunk and stupid is no way to

go through life.”

Here are three ways ethicists have suggested we approach ethical reflection.

Utilitarians say that an act is good if it produces the greatest good for the greatest number of people; or it produces the least harm for the greatest amount of people.

Kant, and other non-consequentialists hold that the good is defined by the performance of our duties or obligations toward others as well as ourselves.

Aristotle held that the good is not defined by any individual act or situation; rather, our aim is for the “good life” as lived by a person who has formed a good moral character.