

Philosophy 3500: Ethics Syllabus—Fall 2017

Class Time and Location: M, W, F 12:55 PM - 1:45 PM, ARCH 228

Instructor: Eric Hutton

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Course website: Canvas

Office Hours: Wed 3:00-4:00pm or by appointment

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(E-mail is a better way to reach me than by phone.)

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Course Description: This course focuses on the three dominant theories in moral philosophy today: consequentialism, deontology, and virtue ethics. Some of the issues covered are: right action, the good life, respect for persons, the concept of virtue, and the process of moral decision-making and moral justification.

Pre-requisite: None, but prior courses in philosophy are highly recommended.

Course Objectives: By the end of the course, students will:

- 1) Be able to describe some of the most important theories proposed by various philosophers in the field of ethics.
- 2) Understand what is involved in the application of these theories to concrete cases.
- 3) Be able to articulate some of the strengths and weaknesses of these theories.
- 4) Be able to identify, analyze, construct, and criticize philosophical arguments.

Texts: All readings are on e-reserve at Marriott Library. A web link has been set up on the course homepage on Canvas that will take you directly to the list of readings.

(Note: The instructor will strive to follow diligently the schedule and plan set out in this syllabus, but this syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor at any time, and students will be given reasonable prior notice of any modifications. If/when such modifications are made, a new version of the syllabus will be posted on the course website and will be authoritative over all previous versions of the syllabus.)

Schedule of Topics and Readings:

Week 1: Introduction

8/21 (Mon): Introduction

8/23 (Wed): Hinman, Ch. 2, p. 32–69

8/25 (Fri): Hinman, Ch. 2, p. 32–69

Week 2:

8/28 (Mon): Rawls, "Outline of a Decision Procedure for Ethics"

8/30 (Wed): Sayre-McCord, "Moral Realism," §1–4

9/1 (Fri): Discussion

Week 3:

9/4 (Mon): **Labor Day: No Class**

9/6 (Wed): Timmons, p. 111–25; selections from Bentham

9/8 (Fri): Timmons, p. 125–38; selections from Mill

Week 4:

9/11 (Mon): Discussion

9/13 (Wed): Timmons, p. 143–49; McCloskey, "A Non-Utilitarian Approach to Punishment"

9/15 (Fri): Timmons, p. 149–61; selections from Mulgan, *The Demands of Consequentialism*

Week 5:

9/18 (Mon): Timmons, p. 161–72; Parfit, "What Makes Someone's Life Go Best?"

9/20 (Wed): Discussion

9/22 (Fri): **Exam**

Week 6:

9/25 (Mon): Timmons, p. 205–18; Kant, *Groundwork*, p. 22–33; Kant, "On a Supposed Right to Lie from Philanthropy"

9/27 (Wed): Timmons, p. 218–26; Kant, *Groundwork*, p. 33–48

9/29 (Fri): Timmons, p. 226–40, Kant, *Groundwork*, p. 48–62

Week 7:

10/2 (Mon): Discussion

10/4 (Wed): Darwall, p. 142–55; Kant, *Groundwork*, p. 9–21

10/6 (Fri): Darwall, p. 155–63; Kant, *Groundwork*, p. 36–45

Week 8: Fall Break

10/9 – 10/13: **Fall Break—No Class**

Week 9:

10/16 (Mon): Darwall, p. 163–72; *Groundwork*, p. 36–59

10/18 (Wed): Discussion
10/20 (Fri): **Exam**

Week 10:

10/23 (Mon): Anscombe, “Modern Moral Philosophy”
10/25 (Wed): Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* book I
10/27 (Fri): Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* book II

Week 11:

10/30 (Mon): Discussion
11/1 (Wed): Hursthouse, “Normative Virtue Ethics”
11/3 (Fri): McDowell, “Virtue and Reason”

Week 12:

11/6 (Mon): Robert Johnson, “Virtue and Right”
11/8 (Wed): Discussion
11/10 (Fri): Timmons, p. 305–13; Dancy, “Moral Particularism,” §1–5

Week 13:

11/13 (Mon): Timmons, p. 313–26; Hooker, “Moral Particularism: Wrong and Bad”
11/15 (Wed): Discussion
11/17 (Fri): **Exam**

Week 14:

11/20 (Mon): Slingerland, “Confucius and the *Lun-Yü*”; Loy, “Mozi”
11/22 (Wed): **Instructor out of town. No class.**
11/24 (Fri): **Thanksgiving Break. No class.**

Week 15:

11/27 (Mon): Zhuangzi, p. 207–50
11/29 (Wed): Zhuangzi, p. 207–50
12/1 (Fri): Kjellberg, “Sextus Empiricus, Zhuangzi, and Xunzi on ‘Why be Skeptical?’”

Week 16:

12/4 (Mon): Discussion
12/6 (Wed): Conclusion & Review

Final Exam: 12/13 (Wed) **1:00–3:00pm.**

Course Requirements:

- A) Students are expected to finish each assigned reading before the class meeting on that assignment. Students are also expected to bring the assigned reading to class with them.
- B) Participation: students are expected to participate in discussion in class. For in-class discussion, raising thoughtful questions, responding insightfully to remarks by other students, answering questions from the instructor, and reading aloud (when asked by the instructor) will all count towards fulfilling this requirement. Students who are absent from class are still responsible for knowing what was said both during lecture *and* discussion, so if you miss class, be sure to get notes from a classmate.
- C) In-class exams: three in-class essay exams on the days designated above. Make-up exams will be given only in cases where a student misses the exam because of a serious medical issue or family emergency, or where the student is participating in an officially sanctioned University activity or the like (see policy [6-100-III-O](#) on attendance). Students requesting to take a make-up exam on such grounds should be prepared to submit documentation of those grounds.
- D) Final exam: a final, longer essay exam on the day and time designated above. The same policy for make-up exams applies to the final exam.

Grading:

Participation in discussions, 20%; Exams, 20% each.

(The instructor reserves the right to change this weighting as necessary in order to fulfill the educational mission of the course.)

The grading scale to be used in this course severely penalizes failure to submit required work, so students who utterly fail to submit required work will jeopardize their overall course grade to a much greater extent than students who submit work that is of poor quality.

Note: All assignments submitted for a grade in this course must be the student's own work. Plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct may result in a failing grade for the entire course, and the case may be transferred to the University's Academic Misconduct Committee for further judgment. According to the Student code, "Plagiarism' means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or credit for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one's own, without attribution, any individual's words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression" (<http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html>). If you have further questions about what constitutes plagiarism or academic misconduct, ask the instructor and consult the University Code.

College of Humanities Academic Misconduct Policy:

Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarizing, research misconduct, misrepresenting one's work, and inappropriately collaborating. Definitions can be found in the Student Code at <http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html>.

If you are suspected of academic misconduct, the process proceeds according to the rules found in the Student Code, University Policy 6-400(V). According to that policy, after meeting with you, the instructor must determine whether academic misconduct has, in fact, occurred.

—If s/he determines that no academic misconduct has occurred, s/he will document that you are not responsible for any academic misconduct.

—If s/he determines academic misconduct has occurred and this is the **first instance** in which you have been alleged to have committed academic misconduct, s/he will take into account whether the act was intentional or a result of negligence in determining the appropriate sanction, which can be up to failing the course. The sanction will be noted in the resolution of the case and your right of appeal is as specified in Policy 6-400(V).

—If s/he determines academic misconduct has occurred, and you have previously been sanctioned for an act of academic misconduct, and the prior instance of misconduct resulted in a sanction less than failing the course, the department will follow the process to fail you for the course. If the prior sanction was failure of the course, your new act of misconduct will result in failure of the course and the department will also follow the process to seek your dismissal from the program and the University.

ADA Statement:

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.