

Philosophy 21001/ 006/10032
Introduction to Ethics
Fall - 2009

3:45-5:00 pm, T R, BOW 219

Instructor: Clarence G. Uher
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Office Hours: M W 2:05-3:35 pm, T R 5:05-6:05 pm, and by appointment.

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A. Course Description

This course will focus on Ethical Theory. We will occasionally discuss Applied Ethics, however the purpose of the discussion will be for clarification of some aspect of the theory at issue. We will concentrate our studies on some of the major justice based systems in ethics, as well as a more contemporary care based system. Our study will include such topics as: virtue-based ethics, duty-based ethics, hedonism, utilitarianism, and care ethics. We will examine the structure of each moral system, along with the various social, political, and cultural influences that gave rise to each system. We will also consider the terminology and the influence of some of the predominant philosophers in each system. During the course of our study we will be able to compare and contrast the various moral systems. The main objective of this course is to foster a foundational understanding of the terminology, philosophers, and moral systems of ethics. Our analysis should help us to examine and better understand our own ethical beliefs, as well as those of others.

B. The Liberal Education Component

The most important skill that individuals with a college degree should possess is the ability to learn on their own. An essential component of learning is *reading comprehension*. Students in this course will encounter some of the most challenging reading material they will encounter during their college career. This course provides both a survey of ethical theory and an exercise in *reading comprehension*.

C. Text

1. *Nicomachean Ethics*, Aristotle, tr. Martin Ostwald. (ISBN: 0-02-389530-6)
2. *Grounding of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Kant, Immanuel, tr. by J.W. Ellington. (ISBN: 0-87220-166-X)
3. *The Classic Utilitarians: Bentham and Mill*, ed. by John Troyer. (ISBN: 0-87220-649-1)
4. *There will be selected material on reserve at the library.

D. Mechanics

- (a) There will be eight (8) quizzes during the term. The three lowest quiz scores will be dropped from the final grade calculation. (20 points each.)
- (b) Two midterm exams will cover the course material completed up to the date of the exam. (100 points each.)
- (c) The final exam will be comprehensive and will follow a similar format as the mid-term exams. (100 points.)

E. Grades

Your final grade will be determined on the total points you acquire during the semester. The chart below indicates the minimum point total needed for the corresponding letter grade. Your final grade will be comprised of the following:

5 Quizzes @ 20 points each	100 points
2 Midterm Exams @ 100 points each	200 points
Final Exam	100 points
	<hr/>
	400 points total

Minimum Points	0	240	252	265	280	292	305	320	332	345	360
Grade	F	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A

F. Make-ups

Please contact me as soon as possible if your absence has caused you to miss any graded course-work. Students will be permitted to make up missed quizzes (after the three dropped quizzes are used up) or exams do to an excused absence (e.g., a doctor's excuse). If a student does not have the proper documentation they will not be permitted to take a make-up exam. A *request of make-up form* must be completed prior to taking the make-up assignment. Make-up work must be completed in a timely manor. In most cases, work must be completed on the day the student returns to class.

G. Course Material On-line

There will be some course material found on *Flashline*. Students can find the course syllabus, course notes, and assignments in the *files* folder under the *My Courses* tab on *Flashline*. Students must establish and maintain their Kent State University e-mail account to access the course material on-line. All e-mails are sent to students using the Kent State University e-mail account.

H. Conduct in the classroom

Proper conduct in the classroom will be expected of every member of the class. Talking, reading newspapers / books / magazines, frequently coming to class late, or leaving class early are rude and disruptive behaviors that will not be tolerated. Cell Phones should only be used for **emergency** calls. Please have your phone set to "vibrate" and answer your call or txt message outside of the classroom.

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Tenative Reading and Assignment Schedule
Kent State University, Kent Campus
Fall - 2009

Week	Date	Assignment
1	9/1	Introduction to course.
	9/3	This LER and you...Intro. to Aristotle. <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , pp. xi-xxiv
2	9/8	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Bk. I, pp. 3-32.
	9/10	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Bk. I, continued.
3	9/15	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Bk. II, pp. 33-51.
	9/17	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Bk. III, pp. 52-68.
4	9/22	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Bk. III & V, pp. 68-82 & 111-120.
	9/24	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Bk. V, pp. 120-145.
5	9/29	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Bk. VI, pp. 146-173.
	10/1	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Review.
6	10/6	First Exam
	10/8	Introduction to I. Kant. <i>Grounding</i> , v-xiii & pp.1-5.
7	10/13	<i>Grounding</i> , pp. 7-17.
	10/15	<i>Grounding</i> , pp. 19-32.
8	10/20	<i>Grounding</i> , pp. 33-48.
	10/22	<i>Grounding</i> , pp. 49-62.

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- 9 10/27 Kant's *Grounding*
 10/29 Finish Kant's *Grounding*, and Introduction to Utilitarianism.
- 10 11/3 J. Bentham, *Principles of Morals and Legislation*, pp. 8-22
 11/5 Review of Kant's *Grounding*, and J. Bentham's *Principles*.
- 11 11/10 **Second Exam**
 11/12 *Utilitarianism*, J. S. Mill, Chapters I & II pp. 95-115.
- 12 11/17 *Utilitarianism*, J. S. Mill, Chapters III & IV pp. 115-127.
 11/19 *Utilitarianism*, J. S. Mill, Chapter V, pp. 127-145.
- 13 11/24 Finish Mill's, *Utilitarianism*
 11/26 **Thanksgiving Break – No Classes after Noon.**
- 14 12/1 Introduction to Care Ethics.
 12/3 Selected reading form Care Ethics.
- 15 12/8 Selected reading form Care Ethics.
 12/10 Review for Final Exam.

The final exam for this course is on Friday, December 18, 2009 at 7:45-10:00 am.

The instructor reserves the right to change, correct, or amend the syllabus and / or the reading schedule during the semester.