Introduction to Ethics
Phil. 21001
MW 11:00-11:50 + Friday Section
Fall, 2012
Bowman 133

Dr. Frank Ryan
Office: 320-E Bowman
Hours: M 12-2, W 2-5
(and by appointment)
Phone: (O) (330) 672-0274
fryan@kent.edu

Grad Assistant Office:
216 Bowman
Phone: (330) 672-9580

Friday Sections: 9:55-10:45
16833-008 Amanda Lewis alewis50@kent.edu BOW 221
16834-009 Danny Livengood wlivengo@kent.edu BOW 301
16835-010 Brian York byork1@kent.edu BOW 203

11:00-11:50
16827-002 Ryan Ausperk rausper1@kent.edu BOW 110
16828-003 Amanda Lewis alewis50@kent.edu BOW 301
16829-004 Danny Livengood wlivengo@kent.edu BOW 220
16830-005 Brian York byork1@kent.edu BOW 224
16831-006 Rob Young ryoung35@kent.edu BOW 223

12:05-12:55:
16832-007 Ryan Ausperk rausper1@kent.edu BOW 223
16836-011 Rob Young ryoung35@kent.edu BOW 221

Course Design: What must we do to be happy? Is the highest human good found in wealth, fame, love, or spirituality? Throughout history humans have sought the key to individual and collective happiness—a search we call “ethics.” Our introduction to ethics covers a wide range of beliefs, from the objectivist claim that we have absolute duties to others, to the relativist view that our only moral obligation is to ourselves. Our journey will be aided by some of the greatest thinkers in history, including Aristotle, Immanuel Kant, Friedrich Nietzsche, and John Dewey. We will also have the opportunity to apply these theories to contemporary issues from gender issues to environmental ethics. Ultimately, however, our study of ethics will yield options rather than final answers: the choice of values in the quest for a meaningful life is a personal lifelong pursuit.

Kent Core & Diversity Requirement: This course may be used to satisfy a Kent Core and/or diversity requirement. It is a course intended to broaden intellectual perspectives, foster
Intro to Ethics
Syllabus

Page 2

ethical and humanitarian values, and prepare students for responsible citizenship and productive careers. It also promotes content about the history, culture, values and notable achievements of people of diverse national origin, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender, physical and mental ability, and social class. It provides opportunities to examine problems and issues that may arise from differences, and opportunities to learn how to deal constructively with them.


Grading: Grades are calculated according to the following scale:

\[
\begin{align*}
\geq 93 &= A \\
90-92 &= A- \\
88-89 &= B+ \\
83-88 &= B \\
80-82 &= B- \\
78-79 &= C+ \\
73-77 &= C \\
70-72 &= C- \\
68-69 &= D+ \\
60-67 &= D \\
\leq 59 &= F
\end{align*}
\]

30% is determined by a two unit exams (15 pts. each), a combination of objective and short essay questions.

20% is determined by a cumulative final exam, similar in format to, though somewhat longer than, the unit exams.

5% is determined by a one page paper outline.

15% is determined by one five page critical-analytic paper. The first draft of the paper may be revised and resubmitted one for a higher grade.

15% is determined by verbal responses to Friday unit study questions. If you cannot attend class on a day when questions are due, or do not wish to respond verbally, credit may be earned by supplying full written answers to all questions before we cover them in class.

10% is determined by performance and participation in other Friday discussions, work groups, and class activities.

5% is an attendance grade determined by the number of unexcused absences according to the following scale: 0-1=A, 2-3=B, 4-5=C, 6=D, 7+ =F.

Note: Students who ask questions and contribute regularly to class discussions will have one or two points added to their overall grade.

Expectations: Because the study of ethics is most beneficial when personal interests and insights supplement a conceptual understanding of the views, both regular attendance and active involvement are important. Be prepared for class, and participate in class discussions. Please be courteous! Arrive on time and do not leave early, refrain from talking in class, and use laptops for class notes only—other use of electronic devices, including cell phones and mp3 players is prohibited.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is monitored by your section instructor. Instructors are generally willing to excuse absences when informed in advance or on the same day—an email post is recommended. Without advance or same day notification, written documentation in conformance with University policy is needed to receive an excused absence.

Registration and Withdrawal Information: University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not attend classes and will receive no credit for the course.
Introduction to Ethics
Syllabus
Page 3

Confirm your enrollment by checking your class schedule (using Student Tools in FlashFast) prior to the deadline indicated. Registration errors must be corrected prior to the deadline. 
*September 9 is the deadline for dropping a class without a “W” appearing on your transcript. November 4 is the final date for withdrawing from the course.*

**Academic Honesty:** Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses that subvert the goals of the institution and the rights of fellow students. Students caught cheating will receive an “F” for the course, and are subject to additional sanctions.

I. "Cheat" means to intentionally misrepresent the source, nature, or other conditions of academic work so as to accrue undeserved credit, or to cooperate with someone else in such misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

1. Obtaining or retaining partial or whole copies of examinations, tests or quizzes before these are distributed for student use.
2. Using notes, textbooks or other information in examinations, tests and quizzes, except as expressly permitted.
3. Obtaining confidential information about examinations, tests or quizzes other than that released by the instructor.
4. Securing, giving or exchanging information during examinations.
5. Having another person take one's place for any academic performance without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor.
6. Using a substantial portion of a piece of work previously submitted for another course or program to meet the requirements of the present course or program without notifying the instructor to whom the work is presented.
8. Presenting falsified information in order to postpone or avoid examinations, tests, quizzes, or other academic work.

II. “Plagiarize” means to take and present as one’s own a material portion of the ideas or words of another or to present as one’s own an idea or work derived from an existing source without full and proper credit to the source of the ideas, words, or works. As defined, plagiarize includes, but is not limited to, the copying of words, sentences and paragraphs, and also other visual and nonverbal materials directly from the work of another without proper credit.

For the complete policy, visit [http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/policydetails.cfm?customel_datapageid_1976529=2037779](http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/policydetails.cfm?customel_datapageid_1976529=2037779)

**Student Accessibility:** If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility through Student Accessibility Services, located in the DeWeese Center. For more information or to register, call 330-672-3391 or visit [www.kent.edu/sas](http://www.kent.edu/sas)

**Grievance Policy:** The Philosophy Department Grievance Procedure for handling grievances is in conformity with the Student Academic Complaint Policy and Procedures set down as University Policy 3342-4-16 in the *University Policy Register*. For information concerning the details of the grievance procedure, please see the Departmental Chairperson.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic/Author</th>
<th>Reading/Assignments /Exams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/27</td>
<td>Introduction: Ethics in Life</td>
<td>G: Great Traditions in Ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/29</td>
<td>An Ethical Continuum</td>
<td>A: Applied Ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/31</td>
<td>Friday Session: Where are you on the ethical continuum?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/3</td>
<td>Labor Day Holiday—no class</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>I. Objectivism</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/5</td>
<td>Socrates and the Sophists</td>
<td>G: 7-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/7</td>
<td>Friday Session: Should Socrates have escaped?</td>
<td>Paper Instructions and Handout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Plato: The Form of Good</td>
<td>G: 10-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/12</td>
<td>Plato: The Good State</td>
<td>G: 15-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/14</td>
<td>Friday Session: Panel: Bronze, Silver, and Gold</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/19</td>
<td>Augustine: The City of God</td>
<td>G: 65-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/21</td>
<td>Friday Session: See No evil?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/24</td>
<td>Kant: Pure and Practical Reason</td>
<td>G: 142-144; A 39-43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/26</td>
<td>Kant: The Good Will</td>
<td>G: 145-149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/28</td>
<td>Friday Session: The attic dilemma—checklist of motives versus consequences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/1</td>
<td>Kant: The Categorical Imperative</td>
<td>G: 149-153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/3</td>
<td>Kant: The Kingdom of Ends</td>
<td>G: 153-155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/5</td>
<td>Friday Section:</td>
<td>Objectiveism Study Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/8</td>
<td></td>
<td>UNIT TEST I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>II. Naturalism</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/10</td>
<td>Aristotle: Form and matter</td>
<td>G: 21-27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>Friday Session: Test return and review</td>
<td>Paper Outline Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/15</td>
<td>Aristotle: The Virtuous Life</td>
<td>G: 27-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/17</td>
<td>Moore, Neo-Utilitarians, Ayer</td>
<td>G: 240-246; 262-268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/19</td>
<td>Friday Session: Exercise: Define Happiness?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/26</td>
<td>Friday Section:</td>
<td>Naturalism Study Questions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction to Ethics
Syllabus
Page 5

III. Social Relativism
10/29 Bentham and Mill: The Pleasure Calculus
10/31 Mill: Utilitarianism
11/2 Friday Section: Gilligan: Redefining Justice
11/5 Rawls and Nozick: Is Justice Fairness?
11/7 Nietzsche: The Will to Power
11/9 Friday Section: Rawls or Nozick?

G: 156-162
G: 163-169
A: 66-74
G: 300-311
G: 211-218

IV. Individual Relativism
11/12 Veterans Day Observance—no class
11/14 Nietzsche: Superman Returns
11/16 Friday Section: Revisiting the Ethical Continuum

Paper First Draft Due
A: 218-224

11/19
11/21 Test Return and Review
11/22-11/25 Thanksgiving Holiday

Social and Individual Relativism Study Questions
UNIT TEST II

V. Ethics and Contemporary Social Issues
11/26 Environmental Ethics: White and Baxter
11/28 Just War Theory: Lackey and Lee
11/30 Friday Section: Instructor’s Wild Card
12/3 Islamic Law and Human Rights: An-Na’im
12/5 Same Sex Marriage: Sadler and Jordan
12/7 Friday Section:

A: 155-162; 181-185
A: 262-269; 280-290
A: 91-99
A: 346-362

Applied Ethics Study Questions
Paper Final Draft Due

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, Dec.11, 10:15-12:30