INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS - PHIL 21001 - 001
Fall 2016; Kent Campus

MEETING TIME AND DATES: M/W/F 1:10 – 2:00
LOCATION: Bowman 220
PROFESSOR: Brian R. Huth
EMAIL: bhuth3@kent.edu
OFFICE HOURS: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11:15 – 1:00. In
Bowman 320 room W.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
The Nicomachean Ethics (NE) by Aristotle (ISBN: 0-02-389530-6)
Utilitarianism (U) by John Stuart Mill (ISBN: 978-0-087220-605-2)
Genealogy of Morals (GM) by Friedrich Nietzsche (ISBN: 978-0-486-42691-4)

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This is a class that focuses mostly on normative ethics: what one ought to do or
ought not to do. We will discuss various themes in ethical discourse, however, our
main focus will be on the "big three" ethical theories of deontology,
utilitarianism, and virtue ethics.

Everyone has some kind of ethical stance. If you have values then you are taking a
normative stance on some issue. If that issue is concerned with right or wrong
action, then you have a normative ethical stance on that issue. Throughout this
semester, we will learn some of the more influential theories of normative ethics
throughout history.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
In this class, students will be asked to evaluate their own reasoning on a deeper
level than they most likely have ever done before. They will be challenged to
challenge themselves and others on difficult issues. Students will learn to focus
their reasoning, evolve argumentative skills, and frame their opinions from a
background of justified reasons. Students will have the opportunity to see their
philosophical acumen grow through journal essays, which will test their
argumentative and creative talents.

ASSIGNMENTS, TESTS, AND GRADING
There will be three different kinds of assignments in this class: (1) reading
quizzes; (2) tests; (3) journal essays.

Reading Quizzes:
There will be random reading quizzes on any given day -- you could consider
these to be pop quizzes if you like. The purpose of these quizzes is to demonstrate
to me that students have been reading the material. There will be twelve reading quizzes, and I will drop two failing quizzes if you have any. These quizzes cannot be made up without a written excuse! They are graded as pass/fail. Read diligently, as many of the reading quizzes will be challenging.

Tests:
There will be four tests in this class. Each test will cover only the material found in that unit. The tests will typically consist of multiple choice, matching, and short answer questions.

Journal Essays:
Students will be asked to write four sets of what I like to call "journal essays." These journal essays are formal academic papers, but they do not require additional research outside of the class. If you do happen to complete additional research, you must cite your sources. Anything remotely close to plagiarism will receive a ZERO.

Students will be given a set of essay questions during the course of each unit. The students are to write one full typed, double-spaced paper for each journal. Journal essay due dates can be found on the course outline.

The following provides the overall distributed weight of each of the four kinds of assignments.

Reading Quizzes: 20% (two percent for each pass/fail)
Tests: 40% (ten percent each)
Journal Entries: 20% (five percent each)
Attendance: 20%

Note 1: Attendance will be taken everyday. Each student will receive three non-excused "freebies." This means that each student is allowed to miss two days without excuse and not have those absences affect their grade. Each absence after the second needs to have some kind of written documentation excusing the absence, otherwise it will negatively impact the grade of each student at a rate of 5 percentage points per missed class. Attendance will not be updated every week. I will generally make an in-class announcement if attendance is updated. Also, remember that the reading quizzes typically cannot be made up. You don’t want to make a habit of missing class!

Note 2: Participation can only ever help your grade. At the end of the semester, if a student is between grades but has good participation, I will bump that student up to the higher grade; if that student’s participation was poor then he/she will receive the lower grade.

Note 3: Makeup/late work policy. A reading quiz can be made up ONLY if you have written documentation excusing the absence. Make up tests are typically full essay exams. You will need to schedule an appointment with me to complete the
make up test. Journal essays are due the day of the test, with no excuses accepted. Even if you are ill, you can email me your journal essay. Only under extreme circumstances will I extend the due date for a student. I will still accept late journal essays two days after they are due for a full letter grade reduction. After that, I no longer accept the essays.

The following provides a translation from the numerical score to a letter grade:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 - 100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 92</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>F</td>
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GENERAL ETIQUETTE

- Turn off your cell phones or turn off your ringer and take your cell phone off of vibrate. PLEASE. I hate interrupting class because someone is texting or because someone keeps getting text messages. If it is an accident, that happens; but let’s try to minimize the accidents as well.

- If I catch you catching Pokémon, I will give your strongest Pokémon to the professor. Get your Pikachu somewhere else!

- You may use your laptop or tablet for note taking purposes only.

- During email correspondences, please make sure to give the email a title. Also, please sign your name. Treat your email correspondences with me as if you were emailing any other professional.

- DO NOT SLEEP IN MY CLASS. This is college; if you need to sleep, please leave the room. If you sleep in my class I will take 5% off of your final grade. This is your one and only warning.

- If the classroom has plenty of open seating, avoid sitting in the back of the room. If you are going to be late, email me if you can. Also, if you show up
late, please just quietly and respectfully find the seat closest to the door. If any student is repeatedly tardy, it will count as an absence. See me if you are concerned.

- If you need to leave class early TELL ME BEFORE CLASS. When you exit, please do so QUICKLY, QUIETLY, AND WITH MINIMAL DISTRACTION. It's just the nice thing to do.

If you continue to violate my policies, your grade will suffer. I don't like making grades suffer, so please don't violate my policies.

**KENT STATE UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**Drop and Withdrawal Dates**

The official registration deadlines for this course can be found by doing a Detailed Class Search from the Schedule of Classes found at: https://keys.kent.edu:44220/ePROD/bwlkffcs.P_AdvUnsecureCrseSearch?term _in=201580

University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking his/her class schedule (using Student Tools in FlashLine) prior to the deadline indicated. Registration errors must be corrected prior to the deadline.

**Plagiarism, Cheating, and other forms of Academic Dishonesty**

Please note that I do not tolerate academic dishonesty in any form. Ignorance of university policy will not be accepted as an excuse. University policy 3-01.8 deals with the problem of academic dishonesty. The sanctions provided in this policy will be used to deal with any violations. If you have any questions, please read the policy at: http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/policydetails.cfm?customel_datapageid_197652 9=2037779

**Information for Students with Documented Disabilities**

University policy 3-01.3 requires that students with documented disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact me at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Accessibility Services. Contact 330-672-3391 or visit www.kent.edu/sas for more information on the relevant procedures.
COURSE OUTLINE

*All page numbers refer to one of the required texts except for readings preceded by 'EXTERNAL ARTICLE'. All external articles can be found in their entirety on Blackboard.

** All information in this course outline is subject to revision.

Week 1:

M 8/29: Introduction to the course


Week 2:

UNIT 1: ETHICAL RELATIVISM AND ARISTOTLE'S VIRTUE ETHICS

M 9/5: LABOR DAY – NO CLASS

W 9/7: EXTERNAL ARTICLE: Ruth Benedict, portion from “Anthropology and the Abnormal,” read the entire article.


Week 3:


R 9/14: Aristotle, NE, (Book I, Sections 6 - 9) pp. 9 - 23.


Week 4:


Week 5:


W 9/28: Aristotle, NE, (Book III, Sections 8-12) pp. 68-82.

Week 6:

**M 10/3:** TEST 1: Unit 1. Journal 1 due.

**UNIT 2: KANT’S DEONTOLOGY AND DIVINE ETHICS**

**W 10/5:** EXTERNAL ARTICLE: Plato, selection from “Euthyphro” pp. 1 – 11.

**F 10/7:** Kant, GMM, Preface and Chapter I, pp. 55-73.

Week 7:

**T 10/10:** Kant, GMM, Chapter II, pp. 74 – 88.

**W 10/12:** Kant, GMM, Chapter II, pp. 88 – 102.

**F 10/14:** Kant, GMM, Chapter II, pp. 102 – 113. **Journal 2 handed out.**

Week 8:

**M 10/17:** Kant, GMM, Chapter III, pp. 114-123.

**W 10/19:** Kant, GMM, Chapter III, pp. 123-132.

**F 10/21:** TEST 2: Unit 2. Journal 2 due.

Week 9:

**UNIT 3: SOME FEMINIST THEMES AND MILL'S UTILITARIANISM**

**M 10/24:** EXTERNAL ARTICLE: Hilde Lindemann "What is Feminist Ethics?" pp. 616 - 622.

**W 10/26:** EXTERNAL ARTICLE: Margaret Urban Walker “Feminist Ethics and Human Conditions” pp. 433 – 450.


Week 10:

**M 10/31:** Mill, U, Chapter 2 pp. 6 – 17 (all of page 17).


**F 11/4:** Mill, U, Chapter 3 pp. 27 – 34.
Week 11:


*F 11/11*: VETERAN’S DAY – NO CLASS!

Week 12:


*W 11/16*: **TEST 3: Unit 3. Journal 3 due.**

**UNIT 4: SOME BUDDHIST ETHICS AND NIETZSCHE**


Week 13:


*W 11/23*: THE DAY BEFORE THANKSGIVING

*F 11/25*: NO SCHOOL! THANKSGIVING BREAK!

Week 14


Week 15


*F 12/9*: Nietzsche (cont.). NO READING! **Journal 4 handed out.**

Week 16

**FINAL: Tuesday, Dec. 13 from 10:15 – 12:30 ** **Journal 4 due at the time of the final.**