MEETING TIME AND DATES: M/W/F 9:55 – 10:45
LOCATION: Bowman 219
PROFESSOR: Brian R. Huth
EMAIL: bhuth3@kent.edu
OFFICE HOURS: MWF 11:30 am – 1:10 pm 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: 0-679-72462-1)

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.

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

Essays:
Each student will be required to complete an essay question for each test. The essay will be a hand written essay that will be completed at the time of the test. There will be four essays in total, one for each test. The topic for the essay will be handed out to students a class meeting before the scheduled exam. Students must write legibly, if I cannot read your handwriting then I cannot grade your essay.

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)
Essays: 20% (five percent each)
Attendance: 20%

Note 1: Attendance will be taken every day. Each student will receive two 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 the student at a rate of 2 percentage points per missed class. 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. In order to make up a reading quiz, you have until the next class period to ask for a makeup quiz. You must ask me via email, as I conduct all makeup quizzes via email. If you have not contacted me by the class period after the missed quiz then you forfeit all possibility of making up the quiz.

Make up tests are typically full essay exams. You will need to schedule an appointment with me to complete the make up test.
The following provides a translation from the numerical score to a letter grade:

- **A** 93-100
- **A-** 90-92
- **B+** 86-89
- **B** 83-85
- **B-** 80-82
- **C+** 76-79
- **C** 73-75
- **C-** 70-72
- **D+** 66-69
- **D** 63-65
- **D-** 60-62
- **F** 59 or below

**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.

- 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_1976529=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 1/16: NO CLASS

W 1/18: Introduction to the course


Week 2:

UNIT 1: ETHICAL RELATIVISM AND ARISTOTLE'S VIRTUE ETHICS


Week 3:


Week 4:


W 2/8: Aristotle, NE, (Book II, Sections 8-9) pp. 48-51.


Week 5:

M 2/13: Aristotle, NE, (Book III, Sections 6 - 12) pp. 68-82.


Week 6:

*M 2/20: TEST 1/ESSAY 1*

**UNIT 2: DEONTOLOGY: DIVINE COMMAND THEORY, SOCIAL CONTRACT THEORY, NATURAL LAW THEORY, AND KANTIAN DEONTOLOGY**


Week 7:


*W 3/1: Kant, GMM, Preface pp. 1 – 5.*

*F 3/3: Kant, GMM, Chapter I, pp. 7 - 18.*

Week 8:

*M 3/6: Kant, GMM, Chapter II, pp. 19 – 29 (stop at the first full paragraph on p. 29)*

*W 3/8: Kant, GMM, Chapter II, pp. 29 – 41 (read through the first full paragraph on p. 41).*

*F 3/10: Kant, GMM, Chapter III, pp. 49 – 56.*

Week 9:

*M 3/13: Kant (continued) NO READING!*

*W 3/15: TEST 2/ESSAY 2*

**UNIT 3: FEMINIST ETHICS, ANIMAL ETHICS, AND MILL'S UTILITARIANISM**


Week 10:

*M 3/20: EXTERNAL ARTICLE: Peter Singer, All Animals are Created Equal.” Read the entire article.*

**F 3/24:** Mill, *U*, Chapter 2 pp. 6 – 17 (all of page 17).

**Week 11:**

**M 3/27:** NO CLASS! SPRING BREAK!

**W 3/29:** NO CLASS! SPRING BREAK!

**F 3/31:** NO CLASS! SPRING BREAK!

**Week 12:**


**W 4/5:** Mill, *U*, Chapter 3 pp. 27 – 34.

**F 4/7:** Mill, *U*, Chapter 4 pp. 35 – 41.

**Week 13:**


**F 4/14:** TEST 3/ESSAY 3

**Week 14**

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

**M 4/17:** EXTERNAL ARTICLE: Peter Harvey, *An introduction to Buddhist Ethics*, Ch. 1, pp. 8 - 31

**W 4/19:** EXTERNAL ARTICLE: Peter Harvey, *An introduction to Buddhist Ethics*, Ch. 1, pp. 31 – 58.


**Week 15**


Week 16


F 5/7: Nietzsche (cont.). NO READING!

Week 17