

## PHILOSOPHY 320: ETHICS

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Office Hours: TR 1-2 PM; W: 1:00-5:00 PM; or by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** A **writing intensive** course in which students will study major classical, normative moral theories.

**COURSE GOALS:** Students will **competently** (1) identify, evaluate, and appreciate seminal concepts that collectively comprise moral theories; (2) appreciate the genesis and evolution of classical ethical theories; (3) demonstrate abilities to recognize and construct formal arguments; and (4) demonstrate an understanding of moral concepts and theories, and philosophical arguments, in substantively and formally correct writings.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. **Attendance/participation/daily writing assignments**  
*Class attendance is required. Your presence and your enthusiastic and intelligent participation in discussion of assigned reading material are expected every day.*  
In preparation for class discussion, you should be able to identify:
  - a. The main claim(s) in assigned readings;
  - b. Arguments supporting these claims;
  - c. Evidence given to support the premises in the arguments;
  - d. The philosopher's conception of and the roles played by The Good, The Right, a person's character, and motives;
  - e. Strengths and weaknesses of the concepts, arguments, and theories; and
  - f. Ways in which the concepts and theories differ from those of other philosophers.
2. **Five (5) papers (topics/requirements/due dates in reader) = 50% of course grade**
3. **Three (3) short answer & essay exams; midterm #1 = 10%; midterm #2 = 15% final exam = 25% of the course grade. *All exams are comprehensive.***

**TEXTS:** All are required. All are in the AS Bookstore and Limited Loan section of the Library.

1. **If you use a different edition, you will have difficulty following in-class discussions and identifying text assigned for papers.**
2. **ALWAYS BRING YOUR TEXT TO CLASS.**
3. Texts:

Aristotle. *The Nichomachean Ethics*. Trans. J.A.K. Thomson. Rev. trans. Hugh Tredennick. New York: Penguin, 2004.

Houghton, Peggy M. and Timothy J. Houghton. *MLA: The Easy Way!* Eds. Michele M. Pratt and Sandra W. Valensky. Flint, MI: Baker College, 2008.

Hume, David. *A Treatise of Human Nature*. Ed. L.A. Selby-Bigge. Rev. ed. P.H. Nidditch. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Oxford: Clarendon, 1978.

Kant, Immanuel. *Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals*. Trans. L. W. Beck. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Indianapolis, IN: Bobbs-Merrill, 1990.

Mill, John Stuart. *Utilitarianism*. Ed. Oskar Piest. Indianapolis, IN: Bobbs-Merrill, 1975.

*Readings in Philosophy 320 (RP)*. Available at: <http://sites.google.com/site/phil320f09/>

## RULES OF THE GAME

1. We will all come to class ***prepared to discuss intelligently*** the assigned readings. This is impossible if you have not read and thought seriously about the material.
2. One learns to do philosophy by doing philosophy; you need the practice, so you will do lots of talking. I will randomly call on students to answer questions about readings starting with the questions articulated on page one, above..
3. ***I will do all I can to help you thrive in this class.*** I cheerfully hope (really!) that you will come to my office to discuss philosophy. Such conversations are both fun and likely to improve your grasp of course material (again, really).
4. ***If you have problems understanding the readings or meeting course requirements, see me as soon as you realize you need assistance.*** Wait till dead week & you are dead meat.
5. I will post grades after each graded assignment. If you do not understand why your grade is what it is, ask me (DUH!).
6. **Mere seat time will not guarantee you a Gentleman s [sic] C.** Your grade will be based on ***your mastery of*** (not mere exposure to) the material.
7. You should be in your seat, ready to begin discussion at 2:00 PM. Arriving late is rude and annoying and should be avoided.
8. ***No eating in class.***
9. ***No use of cell phones in class. Turn off your phone before class begins.*** (If you are waiting to hear about your mother in ICU, or have some similar crisis, let me know.)
10. Anyone caught ***plagiarizing or cheating*** will be shot. Survivors will ***fail the course*** and be referred to Student Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action. I will recommend expulsion from university, as anyone who cheats deserves punishment; and anyone who cheats in an ethics course lacks the intellect necessary to appreciate complex concepts and was admitted to university by mistake.

## READING PHILOSOPHY FOR FUN AND PROFIT

Course readings examine complex theories and demand careful study. You should allot at least 3 hours (4-5 would be better) for each reading. You should also read assignments before and after class discussions. (Yes, I am suggesting you read each assignment (at least) twice; no, I am not insane. Yes, I know you have a life. Believe it or not, I also have a life.) We should all acknowledge: *Vita breva, ars longa* and commit ourselves to the task at hand.

### READING SCHEDULE:

- 8/25 Introduction to moral theory
- 8/26 **PERSONAL FURLOUGH DAY** **NO office hours, phone or email communication**
- 8/27 Ethics and Argument Analysis  
READ all in RP: (1) Syllabus; (2) Newton: Introduction: Foundations... ; (3) Textual Exegesis... ; (4) Argument forms ; and (5) Why Everyone Should Hate Feminists  
**Writing assignment: As announced in class**
- 9/1 Aristotle  
READ: (1) Chart: Comparative Analysis (RP); (2) Aristotle: Bk I, §§i-vi; (3) Houghton, pp. 1-6 (Part I) and p. 64; and (4) Paper Assignments (RP)  
**Writing assignment: As announced in class**

- 9/2 **PERSONAL FURLOUGH DAY** NO office hours, phone or email communication
- 9/3 Aristotle  
 READ: (1) Aristotle: Bk I, §§vii-xiii; and (2) Houghton, pp. 7-17  
**Writing assignment: As announced in class**
- 9/8 **CAMPUS-WIDE FURLOUGH DAY** NO CLASS, office hours, phone or email
- 9/10 Aristotle  
 READ: Bk II, §§i-ix (entire book)  
**Writing assignment: PAPER #1 IS DUE**
- 9/15 Aristotle:  
 READ: (1) Aristotle: Bk III, §§i-v and x-xii; (2) Philosophical Writing (RP); and (3) Houghton, pp. 20-27, 29-39, 69
- 9/17 Aristotle: Bk VI, §§ ALL
- 9/22 Aristotle: Bk VII, §§i-x  
**Writing assignment: PAPER #2 IS DUE**
- 9/24 Aristotle, Bk X §§all
- 9/29 **MIDTERM EXAM #1 Bring a Green Book**
- 10/1 Hume READ: (1) Hume & His Metaphysics (RP) & (2) Hume II/III/§§ I-II (399-412)
- 10/6 Hume: II/III/§§ III-VI (413-427)
- 10/8 Hume: III/I/§§ I-II (455-476)
- 10/13 Hume: III/II/§§ I-II (477-501)  
**Writing assignment: PAPER #3 IS DUE**
- 10/15 **CAMPUS-WIDE FURLOUGH DAY** NO CLASS, office hours, phone or email
- 10/20 Hume: Hume III/II/§ V (516-539)
- 10/22 Hume: III/III/§ I (574-591)
- 10/27 Hume: III/III/§§ II-IV, VI (602-614, 618-621)  
**Writing assignment: PAPER #4 IS DUE**
- 10/29 **MIDTERM EXAM #2 Bring a green book**
- 10/30 **PERSONAL FURLOUGH DAY** NO office hours, phone or email communication
- 11/2 **CAMPUS-WIDE FURLOUGH DAY** NO CLASS, office hours, phone or email communication
- 11/3 Kant, Preface and First Section [387-406]
- 11/5 Kant, Second Section [406-420]
- 11/10 Kant, Second Section [420-436]
- 11/12 Kant, Second Section [436-445]
- 11/17 Kant, Third Section [446-463]
- 11/19 **PERSONAL FURLOUGH DAY** NO CLASS, office hours, phone or email
- 12/1 **PERSONAL FURLOUGH DAY** NO CLASS, office hours, phone or email  
**Writing assignment: PAPER #5 IS DUE** Turn in to my office mailbox (TRIN 121) no later than 4PM
- 12/3 Mill, Chapters 1-2
- 12/8 Mill, Chapters 3-4
- 12/9 **PERSONAL FURLOUGH DAY** NO office hours, phone or email communication
- 12/10 Mill, Chapters 5
- 12/17 **FINAL EXAM: Thursday, December 17, 12-1:50 PM**  
Office hours during finals week: Monday and Wednesday 1:00-3:30 PM