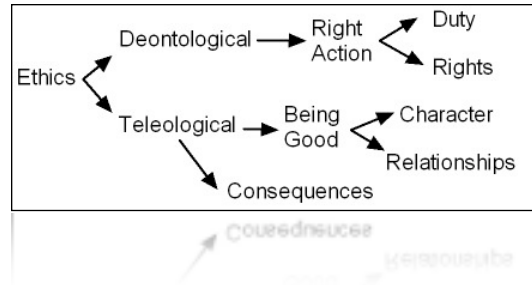


Ethics.

2:00 – 3:50pm MW | Sturm Hall 311
Spring Quarter 2012
PHIL 2180

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Office: 382 Sturm | 303-871-4917
Office Hours: 1-2pm TR



Course Description.

What does it mean to live well? This course will examine several different ways one can answer this question. One can respond to this question with moral theories that aim to discover the universal principles by which right action and right being can be known. One can respond by applying these moral theories to concrete ethical problems to figure out what should be done in specific cases. One can also answer this question by discovering how it is that ethical questioning itself works. What kinds of beings are we such that we can ask this sort of question and expect a “correct” answer? What are the emotional, material, and historical conditions required before we can even ask the question, “what does it mean to live well”? If there are no universal principles of living well, is it still possible to live well? The aim of this course is to learn what ethics *is*, how it *works*, and how we might put it into *practice*.

Required Readings.

All texts are available as PDF's. Students are expected to print these texts and bring them to class every day.

Course Requirements.

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| 1. Participation | 10% |
| 2. Quizzes | 10% |
| 4. First paper (4-6 pages) | 40% |
| 5. Final paper (6-9 pages) | 40% |

Participation/Attendance.

You are expected to participate actively in this class, which includes attending class, reading all assigned material prior to class, bringing all readings to class, and participating productively and professionally in class discussions. Missing three classes for any reason will result in a -3 grade reduction to your final grade (B to B-). An additional 1/3 grade reduction will be made for each additional missed class after the third. Three late arrivals for class will count as one absence. If you fail to bring the appropriate texts to class you will be counted as late. The quality and quantity of your participation in the class discussion will be evaluated in assigning 10% of your final grade. In addition to any penalties that you receive for failure to attend class, absences from class will also negatively affect your participation grade.

Quizzes.

It is expected that all students will come to class having read the assigned readings. There will be up to eight quizzes given throughout the quarter. These quizzes are not intended to be difficult, so as long as students have read the material these should test only basic comprehension skills. You can drop your two lowest quiz grades.

First Paper.

This first paper will be 4-6 pages in length. You will be given a choice between more than one prompt to write on.

Final Paper.

In your final 6-9 page paper you will have the option between more than one prompt or writing on an independently chosen topic approved by the Professor and requiring an ungraded 1-2 page proposal and short bibliography.

Policies.**Incomplete Grades and Extensions.**

Incomplete grades and extensions Will be given only in the event of documented emergencies. Late papers will lose one letter grade for each calendar day that they are late.

Electronic Submission.

Your papers will be submitted electronically. Please retain copies of all work submitted and all work returned to you during the term until the final course grade has been posted. In the event of any question concerning whether grades have been accurately recorded, it is your responsibility to provide these copies as documentation.

Computers and Other Electronic Equipment.

Use of electronic equipment, including cell phones, MP3 players, AND LAPTOP COMPUTERS is prohibited during this class. Exceptions to the prohibition of laptops may be requested from the instructor and will be granted only for legitimate academic reasons. Use of laptops for academic reasons will be monitored throughout the term, and failure to restrict their use to this function will result in the revocation of any laptop privileges.

Email.

Please check your email regularly, I will be emailing you several times during the term.

Academic Honesty.

Please review and familiarize yourself with the provisions of the University of Denver Honor Code regarding academic honesty. You can find a summary in each term's Schedule of Classes or at: <http://www.du.edu/studentlife/ccs/2010--2011%20Honor%20Code.pdf>. Violations of academic honesty will be met with disciplinary action (the usual punishment is an "F" for the course). Definitions and examples of plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating are posted in the student life handbook.

Inclement Weather.

It is generally expected that class will meet unless the University is officially closed for inclement weather. If it becomes necessary to cancel class while the University remains open, this will be announced via email.

Individual Differences.

If you experience difficulty in this course for any reason, please don't hesitate to consult with me. If you have a documented disability that may prevent you from fully demonstrating your abilities, you should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure your full participation and facilitate your education process. The university offers a wide range of services to support you in your efforts to meet the course requirements. Students may also contact the Disability Services Program (DSP) by email dsp@du.edu, phone (303-871-2278), or in person. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities and is located on the 4th floor of Ruffatto Hall, 1999 E. Evans Ave. DSP -- 303.871. 2278 / 7432 / 2455. Information is also available on line at <http://www.du.edu/disability/dsp>; see the Handbook for Students with Disabilities.

Schedule of Activities, Readings, and Assignments

| Unit | Week | Date | Activities | Readings Due |
|--------------------------------|---------|------|------------------|--|
| Unit 1 Normative Ethics | Week 1 | 3/26 | | Introductions, syllabus, course readings and expectations. Writing Thinking. |
| | | 3/28 | | LaFollette, “The Truth in Ethical Relativism” |
| | Week 2 | 4/2 | | Kant, <i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , Preface, First section |
| | | 4/4 | | Kant, <i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , Second section 26–52 |
| | Week 3 | 4/9 | | Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> , Chapters I-III |
| | | 4/11 | No Class | No Class. |
| | Week 4 | 4/16 | | Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> , Chapter IV-V |
| | | 4/18 | | Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Books I & II |
| Unit 2 Applied Ethics | Week 5 | 4/23 | | Kant, “Rational Beings Alone Have Moral Worth” Regan, “Animal Rights Human Wrongs” |
| | | 4/25 | | Singer, “A Utilitarian Defense of Animal Liberation” |
| | Week 6 | 4/30 | | Hursthouse, “Applying Virtue Ethics to Our Treatment of the Other Animals” |
| Unit 3 Non-Normative Ethics | | 5/2 | First paper Due | Beauvoir, <i>Ethics of Ambiguity</i> , 7–35 |
| | Week 7 | 5/7 | | Kittay, “The Ethics of Care, Dependence, and Disability” |
| | | 5/9 | | Foucault, <i>The Use of Pleasure</i> , 3–13; 25–32 |
| Unit 4 Assemblage Ethics | Week 8 | 5/14 | | Spinoza, <i>Ethics</i> , Book II, 115–134 |
| | | 5/16 | | Deleuze, <i>Spinoza: Practical Philosophy</i> , 17–29 Deleuze and Guattari, <i>A Thousand Plateaus</i> , 256–265. |
| | Week 9 | 5/21 | | Nietzsche, <i>The Genealogy of Morals</i> , First Essay. |
| | | 5/23 | | Nietzsche, <i>The Will to Power</i> , 338–358 |
| | Week 10 | 5/28 | | Deleuze, <i>Nietzsche and Philosophy</i> , 39–60 |
| | | 5/30 | | Deleuze, <i>Nietzsche and Philosophy</i> , 61–79 |
| | | 6/6 | Final Essay due. | |