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PHILOSOPHY 2306: INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS

Course Description. This course is an introduction to the study of ethics. We will examine two of the major divisions of ethics: normative ethics (theories about what makes something morally good or morally right) and applied ethics (the analysis of contemporary issues from a moral point of view). Our focus, though, will be on normative ethics. We will read and critically analyze selected texts in ethics.

Course Objectives. The main objective of the course is to introduce the student to the study of ethics. This objective has at least three parts. The first part is to become acquainted with and understand some of the central concerns of ethics. The second part is to develop a body of shared knowledge about several historically significant ethical theories. The third part is to develop some of the intellectual and critical skills necessary to the application of ethics to contemporary issues.

Course Requirements. The course requirements are:

First Exam	20% of the course grade
Second Exam	20% of the course grade
Third Exam	20% of the course grade
Text Summaries	20% of the course grade
Applied Ethics Presentation	20% of the course grade

Make-Up Policy. The general make-up policy for work missed is the following:

Exams:	A make-up exam can be taken only with a written legitimate excuse.
Text Summaries:	No make-up is possible. The grade for a missed text summary is 0.
Class Presentation:	No make-up is possible. The grade for missing your class presentation is 0.

Course Attendance and Withdrawal Policy. Attendance will be taken on a daily basis. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw from the class. A student may officially drop at the registrar's office anytime up to and including November 6. Students who do not officially drop from the class will receive a course grade based on the work submitted to meet the course requirements stated above.

Students who take a course for the third time or more face significant tuition/fee increases at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities. If you are considering course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, confer with your instructor or a counselor as early as possible about your study habits, reading and writing homework, test-taking skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available.

International Students. Receiving a W in a course may affect the status of your student Visa. Once a W is assigned for the course, it will not be changed to an F because of the visa consideration. Please contact the International Student Office at 713.718.8520 if you have any questions about your visa status and other transfer issues.

Students with Disabilities. Students who require reasonable accommodations for disabilities are encouraged to report to Room 102 SJAC, or call 713.718.6164 to make necessary arrangements. Faculty are only authorized to provide accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office.

Course Readings. The texts for the course, which are available in the bookstore, are:

1. Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, trans. Martin Ostwald (Prentice Hall, 1999)
2. Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, trans. Mary Gregor (Cambridge University Press, 1997)
3. John Troyer, ed., *The Classical Utilitarians: Bentham and Mill* (Hackett, 2003)
4. Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality*, trans. Maudemarie Clark and Alan Swensen (Hackett, 1998)

In addition to the texts, there are a number of articles you will be responsible for reading. These articles are listed in the schedule of readings below and can be accessed at the course website:

<http://learning.cc.hccs.edu/Members/lew/2306/index.htm>

Course Topics and Schedule of Readings.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics and Readings</u>
Aug 25	COURSE OVERVIEW
Aug 27	I. THE NATURE OF MORALITY 1. James Rachels and Stuart Rachels, "What is Morality?" [course website]
Sept 1	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
Sept 3	II. MORAL REASONING: READING AND ANALYSIS 1. Lewis Vaughn, "Reading Philosophy" [course website] 2. OSU, <i>Writing Philosophy Papers: A Student Guide</i> , pp. 45-48 [course website] 3. Lewis Vaughn, "How to Read an Argument" [course website] 4. <i>Analyzing Ethical Arguments</i> [course website]

- Sept 8, 10 III. DIVINE COMMAND THEORY
1. Plato, *Euthyphro*, selection [course website]
 2. Stephen Layman, "Ethics and the Kingdom of God" [course website]
 3. John Arthur, "Religion, Morality, and Conscience" [course website]
- Sept 15 IV. ETHICAL EGOISM
1. Ayn Rand, Excerpts from *Atlas Shrugged* [course website]
 2. Louis Pojman, "Egoism and Altruism: A Critique of Ayn Rand" [course website]
- Sept 17, 22 V. MORAL RELATIVISM AND MORAL UNIVERSALISM
1. Gilbert Harman, "Moral Relativism" [course website]
 2. Louis Pojman, "The Case Against Moral Relativism" [course website]
- Sept 24 FIRST EXAMINATION
- Sept 29 VI. ARISTOTLE: THE HUMAN GOOD AND HAPPINESS
1. Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Bk 1: Chs. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10, 12, 13 and Bk 10: Chs. 6, 7, 8
- Oct 1 VII. ARISTOTLE: VIRTUE AND THE DOCTRINE OF THE MEAN
1. Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Bk. 2
- Oct 6 VIII. ARISTOTLE: MORAL CHARACTERS
1. Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Bk. 3: Chs. 1-5, Bk. 6: Chs. 1, 2, 5, 13 and Bk. 7: Chs. 1-10
- Oct 8 IX. ARISTOTLE: FRIENDSHIP
1. Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Bk. 8: Chs. 1-9, 13-14; Bk. 9
- Oct 13 X. BENTHAM, MILL, AND UTILITARIANISM
1. Troyer, ed., *Classical Utilitarians*, pp. 8-12, 19-22, 92-94, 95-98
- Oct 15 XI. UTILITARIANISM: OBJECTIONS AND REPLIES
1. Troyer, ed., *Classical Utilitarians*, pp. 98-115

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- Oct 20 XII. UTILITARIANISM: OBJECTIONS AND REPLIES
1. Troyer, ed., *Classical Utilitarians*, pp. 115-127
- Oct 22 XIII. UTILITARIANISM: OBJECTIONS AND REPLIES
1. Troyer, ed., *Classical Utilitarians*, pp. 127-145
- Oct 27 TO BE DETERMINED
- Oct 29 SECOND EXAMINATION
- Nov 3 XIV. KANT: ON THE STATUS OF MORAL PRINCIPLES
1. Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 1-6, 19-24
- Nov 5 XV. KANT: CONCEPT OF DUTY
1. Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 7-18
- Nov 10 XVI. KANT: CATEGORICAL IMPERATIVE
1. Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 24-51
- Nov 12 XVII. KANT: CATEGORICAL IMPERATIVE CONTINUED
1. Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 52-66
- Nov 17 XVIII. APPLIED ETHICS PRESENTATIONS
- Nov 19 XIX. APPLIED ETHICS PRESENTATIONS
- Nov 24 XX. APPLIED ETHICS PRESENTATIONS
- Nov 26 XXI. APPLIED ETHICS PRESENTATIONS
- Dec 1 XXII. NIETZSCHE
1. Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality*, First Treatise
- Dec 3 XXIII. NIETZSCHE
1. Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality*, Second Treatise
- Dec 8 FINAL EXAMINATION (11:30-1 class will have exam at 11 AM)
- Dec 10 FINAL EXAMINATION (10-11:30 class will have exam at 10 AM)