

Philosophy 4: Introduction to Ethics

Fall Quarter 2020

Tuesday/Thursday 9.30-10.50

Instructor: Sean Greenberg

Email: greenbes@uci.edu

Virtual Office Hours: By appointment

TA's: Joshua Chang (changji1@uci.edu); Matt Dean (deanm1@uci.edu); Louis Doulas (ldoulas@uci.edu); Garrett Russell Ming (grming@uci.edu)

Overview: What should we do? Why should we do what we should do? These questions are at the heart of philosophical ethics, and at the heart of our lives. We will engage these questions by examining philosophical theories that give answers to them, and by testing those theories in the context of particular examples.

Texts: All readings will be available for downloading from the course website on EEE.

Formal Requirements: Class participation will constitute 25% of the final grade for the course. ('Participation' is understood broadly, to include attending discussion sections, submitting questions via email to either the professor or TA, attending office hours, and participating in lecture.) Each student must also submit *at least one* 'reflection' question to their TA each week at least one day prior to their discussion section: submission of the question will count towards the participation grade for the course. There will be three written assignments: a paper on ethical theories, worth 35% of the course grade; a short paper outlining an argument worth 15% of the course grade; and a final comparative paper worth 25% of the course grade. IFF the first paper is submitted on time or by an extended due date negotiated with your TA, the paper can be rewritten and resubmitted on the final day of classes the final grade for the paper will be the higher of the two grades.

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Disabilities Services Center at 949.824.7494 as soon as possible.

Late Policy: Written work turned in late without an extension will be *immediately* penalized one full letter grade, and will be penalized a third of a letter grade *for each successive day* that it is not submitted. A student may receive an extension if and only if s/he contacts me *at least* two days in advance of the due date and gives me a good reason for granting the extension.

Exceptions will be granted only in extreme extenuating circumstances.

UCI Academic Honesty Policy: Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated at the University of California, Irvine. Cheating, forgery, dishonest conduct, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the University's educational, research, and social roles. They devalue the learning experience and its legitimacy not only for the perpetrators but for the entire community. It is essential that all members of the academic community subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and accept individual responsibility for their work. Please familiarize yourself with the UCI Policy on Academic Honesty:

<http://catalogue.uci.edu/appendix/#academichonestytext>

You will be required to submit written work in electronic form to Turnitin.com.

Effective in FALL QUARTER 2020, the Pass ('P')/No Pass ('NP') option will be open to students until 4:59 PM on Friday of the 10th week of classes. A P will count toward satisfaction of a major requirement that normally must be satisfied with a letter grade. If you enroll in this course P/NP, you will need to earn the equivalent of a C grade or higher in order to receive a P grade for the class; if you earn the equivalent of a C- grade or lower, you will receive an NP grade. P/NP does not factor into your GPA.

The fine print: Students may add or drop a course in the School of Humanities through the end of the second week of classes: exceptions require the approval of the Undergraduate Dean. All school and major requirements must be taken for letter grades.

GE IV INFORMATION

Category IV: Arts and Humanities

Senate Regulation:

Category IV courses expand the student's sense of diverse forms of cultural expression, past and present. Students develop their critical capacity as they discover how meaning is created and experience is variously interpreted.

Catalog Description:

Study of the Arts and Humanities expands the student's sense of diverse forms of cultural expression, past and present. Students develop their critical capacity as they discover how meaning is created and experience variously interpreted.

After completing this GE requirement, successful students should be able to do the following: demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how visual and verbal communication is used in literature and film, art and music, and philosophy and history; communicate an understanding and appreciation of diverse forms of cultural expression, past and present; understand and explain the research methods used in the acquisition of knowledge and the testing of competing theories in the arts and humanities; and think critically about how meaning is created and how experience is variously interpreted.

Course Specific Learning Outcomes:

After completing a course in this category, successful students should be able to do three of the following:

1. 1) Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how different forms of art engage multiple sensory experiences.
2. 2) Communicate a recognition and understanding of diverse forms of expression across the globe, past and present.
3. 3) Demonstrate an understanding of the research and creative methods used in the construction of knowledge in the arts and humanities.
4. 4) Demonstrate a critical recognition of the historical and philosophical approaches to the formation of culture, including the impact of technology on aesthetic experience.
5. 5) Identify how different theories and practices, over time, shape our interpretation of cultural and creative expression.

In its focus on classic texts and present-day articles, this course fulfills GE IV learning outcome (2). Through lectures and written work, students are meant to come to appreciate the analysis of argumentation characteristic of philosophy, thereby fulfilling GE IV learning outcome (3) with respect to philosophy. Finally, insofar as the course examines different approaches to issues in philosophy, the course fulfills GE IV learning outcome (5).

Tentative Course Schedule

1 October: Introductionss

6 October: Virtue Ethics (1)

Reading: Selections from Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*

8 October: Virtue Ethics (2)

Reading: Selections from Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*

13 October: Deontology (1)

Reading: Selections from Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*

15 October: Deontology (2)

Reading: Reading: Selections from Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*

20 October: Utilitarianism (1)

Reading: Selections from Mill, *Utilitarianism*

22 October: Utilitarianism (2)

Reading: Selections from Mill, *Utilitarianism*

27-29 October: Catch-Up, Wrap-Up, and Review of Ethical Theories

First Paper Due November 1 at 5 PM

3 November: Abortion (1)

Reading: Marquis, “Why Abortion is Immoral”

5 November: Abortion (2)

Reading: Thomson, “A Defense of Abortion”

10 November: Euthanasia (1)

Reading: “Physician-Assisted Suicide”

12 November: Euthanasia (2)

Reading: Rachels, “Active and Passive Euthanasia”; Gay-Williams, “The Wrongfulness of Euthanasia”

17 November: Animals (1)

Reading: Singer, “All Animals are Equal”

19 November: Animals (2)

Reading: Steinbock, “Speciesism and the Idea of Equality”

24 November: Animals (3)

Reading: Wallace, “Consider the Lobster”

Second (Short) Paper Due 25 November at 5 PM

26 November: No Class Session—Happy Thanksgiving! (Consider the turkey....)

1 December: Climate Change (1)

Reading: Sinnott-Armstrong, “It’s Not My Fault: Global Warming and Individual Moral Obligation”

3 December: Climate Change (2)

Reading: Broome, “Private Morality and Climate Change”

8 December: Climate Change (3)

Reading: Krakoff, “Parenting the Planet”

10 December:

Reading: Review and Conclusions

Revised First Paper Due 12 December at 5 PM

Final Paper Due 19 December at 5 PM