

Introduction to Ethics: Good and Evil

Philosophy 110

Spring 2013

You shall know the Truth and the Truth shall set you free--Jesus

Courage does not lie in having convictions but in having your convictions attacked--Friedrich
Nietzsche

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Office hours: Thursday 3:30-4:20 and by appointment

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Required Texts:

- ❖ Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, second edition (Hackett Publishing Co., Inc, 1999), Terence Irwin, translator
- ❖ Christopher W. Gowans, *Philosophy of the Buddha* (Routledge Press, 2003)
- ❖ Michael J. Sandel, *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do*, (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009)
- ❖ Norman Melchert, *Who's to Say: A Dialogue on Relativism*, (Hackett Publishing Co., 1994)
- ❖ Plato, *Euthyphro, Apology and Crito* (Library of Liberal Arts, 1948), F.J. Church, translator
- ❖ Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion* (First Mariner Books 2008)
- ❖ Timothy J Keller, *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism* (Dutton/Penguin Group 2008)
- ❖ Various handouts that will be available online

Required Assignments:

- ❖ 3 tests (40 points each)
- ❖ 4 page paper (100 points) (Due April 30)
- ❖ Class participation (10 points)

Your grade will be based on the following 100-point scale:

96-100 = A

92-95 = A-

88-91 = B+

84-87 = B

80-83 = B-

76-79 = C+

72-75 = C

69-71 = C-

63-68 = D

62 and below is failing

Of Special Note:

- ❖ All tests will be taken on D2L. If you miss a test you must have a valid reason and physical proof (e.g., doctor's note) in order to make up the test. Failure to produce a valid reason and proof will result in a 0 for that test grade. Any cheating on exams or plagiarizing in papers will result in the failure of this class and you will be punished to the fullest extent of the academic law.
- ❖ Philosophy is about discussing important issues! Therefore, classroom participation is expected and will be assessed as part of your grade. Keep in mind that class participation is not class attendance. It is expected that you attend class and also that you participate in the discussions. At the end of the semester I will hand out an evaluation sheet in which you will evaluate yourself in terms of your class participation.
- ❖ This syllabus is a general outline of how this class shall proceed. It is not etched in stone. We will make amendments and adjustments along the way. If the amendments affect a test day, I will announce the day of the re-scheduled test the week prior.

Course Schedule

Jan. 9 Introduction to Problems of Good and Evil: Explanation of Syllabus and Class Procedures

Jan. 11 Worldview Thinking: What is a Worldview?

Reading: Plato's *Apology*

Jan. 14 Introducing Socrates

Reading: Plato's *Crito*

Jan. 16 Socrates and the Sophists

Reading: *Who's to Say?*, p. 1-29

Jan. 18 Introducing Moral Relativism: Basic Issues

Jan. 21 MLK Day No Classes

Jan. 23 Relativism Continued

Reading: Keller, *Reason for God*, ch. 1

Jan. 25 Religious Pluralism: Are all Religions the Same?

Jan. 28 Exam Review

Jan. 30 Exam #1

Reading: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, p. 1-5, 7-30

Feb. 1 Introducing Aristotle: Teleology and Eudaimonia

Reading: *Nicomachean Ethics*, p. 40-66

Feb. 4 Aristotle on Virtue, Character and Doctrine of the Mean

Reading: *Nicomachean Ethics*, p. 119-153

Feb. 6 Aristotle on Friendship

Reading: Gowans, *Philosophy of the Buddha*, ch. 3 & ch. 10

Feb. 8 Introduction to Buddhism: Four Noble Truths: Life is Suffering

Reading: *Philosophy of the Buddha*, ch. 11

Feb 11 Four Noble Truths: Craving and Suffering

Reading: *Philosophy of the Buddha*, ch. 12 & 13

Feb. 13 Four Noble Truths Continued: Nirvana

Reading: *Philosophy of the Buddha*, p. 172-174, ch. 15 & 16

Feb. 15 Four Noble Truths Continued: 8-Fold Path

Feb. 18 President's Day No Classes

Feb. 20 Five Precepts and Buddhist Ethics

Feb. 22 Exam Review

Feb. 25 Exam #2

Feb. 27 Egoism, Hedonism and Ethics

Reading: *Justice*, ch. 2 Utilitarianism

March 1 Introducing Utilitarianism: Jeremy Bentham

March 4 Utilitarianism cont.: J.S. Mill

March 6 Critique of Utilitarianism

March 8 Introducing Kant and the Enlightenment

March 11-15 Spring Break

Reading: *Justice*, p. 108-116

March 18 Kant on Duty and Goodwill

Reading: *Justice*, p. 116-120

March 20 Introducing the Categorical Imperative (CI)

Reading: *Justice*, p. 120-124

March 22 The CI and Human Dignity

March 25 Exam Review

March 27 Exam #3

March 29 University Day No Class

April 1 Explain Final Paper and Introduction to Theism

Reading: *The Reason for God*, Introduction

April 3 The Logical Problem of Evil

April 5 Theodicy or Defense?: The Freewill Response

April 8 The Evidential Problem of Evil

Reading: W.L. Craig, *The New Atheism and Five Arguments for the Existence of God*, <http://www.reasonablefaith.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=8088>

April 10 Dualism: Do we need evil to know good?

April 12 Existence of God: Kalam Cosmological Argument

Reading: *The God Delusion*, p. 162-189, *The Reason for God*, Intermission and ch 8

April 15 The Fine Tuning Argument

Reading: *The Reason for God*, ch. 9 and *The God Delusion*, ch. 6

April 17 The Moral Argument

April 19 The Moral Argument and Human Dignity

Reading: *The Reason for God*, ch. 2

April 22 Evil as Evidence for God

April 24 Class/Participation Evaluation

April 26 Final Paper Workshop