

Course Title	Ethical Theory		Instructor(s)	Thomas J. Spiegel
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Class Style	Lecture		Office Hours	tbd
Track	Global Liberal Arts		Mode of Instruction	Solo-teaching
Credits	2		Allocated Year	1
Active Learning	Category 1 (3) Category 4 (1,3, 9, 10)		Compulsory or Elective	Elective
Course Overview	<p>Ethics is the branch of philosophy that deals with the question (formulated in the broadest sense possible) of what humans ought to do with their lives. Concretely, this touches upon questions regarding morality, the good life, the right shape of communal life, religion, and existence. This course is designed to teach students the most important and fundamental concepts in ethics and meta-ethics. Accordingly, the course will deal with questions such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the nature of the good?</li> <li>2. What is a good life?</li> <li>3. What do we owe each other?</li> <li>4. What is justice?</li> <li>5. Is morality subjective or objective?</li> </ol> <p>The course will feature readings of classical thinkers who aimed to answer some of these questions. The course requires close readings and discussion of the text, students are expected to participate interactively by contributing to the debates.</p> <p>The course features elements that aim to activate students to ensure deeper understanding of the issues at hand. Among those elements are different kinds of group tasks that require students to explain and debate the topics we read and discuss in smaller settings.</p> <p>I will pose a question at the end of each class relating to the content of that session. Students are required to ponder this question and submit a brief answer of about 50 to 150 words online.</p>			
Course Objectives	<p>The objective of this course is for students to attain an understanding of some of the most important issues and concepts in ethics. Simultaneously, this course will introduce the students to some of the most important thinkers in ethics. By continuously taking reasoned stances on these issues both in writing and in debates, students will further improve and hone their ability for critical thought as a skill that is deployable in numerous other subjects. In particular, successfully partaking in this course will enable students to more critically and competently reflect on the shape of a just society, on the nature of morality, and on their own personal ordinary conduct.</p>			
Prerequisite	No prerequisites			
Course Schedule	No	Contents		Homework
	1	Introduction and Virtue Ethics Virtue ethics, due to Aristotle, is a branch of moral philosophy that emphasizes character and the cultivation of virtues rather than merely evaluating actions based on rules		Question posed at the end of class
	2	Consequentialism I Consequentialism, associated with British philosophers Bentham and Mill, is a moral theory that evaluates the rightness or wrongness of actions based on their outcomes or consequences.		Question posed at the end of class
	3	Consequentialism II		Question posed at the end of class

		This session delves into critiques of consequentialism	
	4	Deontology I This class introduces duty based ethics.	Question posed at the end of class
	5	Deontology II We consider some problems of deontology..	Question posed at the end of class
	6	Divine Command Theory Divine command theory is the idea that what is right or wrong depends on the will and command of an all-powerful God.	Question posed at the end of class
	7	Midterm exam	
	8	Existentialism I Existentialism is thought to be a philosophical movement of the 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> century dealing with individual existence, radical freedom, and choice. It is associated with thinkers like Kierkegaard and Sartre	Question posed at the end of class
	9	Existentialism II We are going into Absurdism.	Question posed at the end of class
	10	Existentialism III We interpret existentialism as a critique of traditional ethics.	Question posed at the end of class
	11	Moral Relativism I Is morality universal or relative to a certain culture?	Question posed at the end of class
	12	Moral Relativism II We are considering critiques of moral relativism.	Question posed at the end of class
	13	Feminist Ethics I This session deals with central topics in feminist ethics, such as gender, violence, power, or care	Question posed at the end of class
	14	Feminist Ethics II This continues the previous one.	Question posed at the end of class
	15	Repetition and Exam Preparation	Question posed at the end of class
Grading	Final Test: 35% Midterm test: 35% Weekly Homework: 20% Active Participation: 10%		
Textbooks	N/A		
References			
NOTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Homework will be assigned at the end of class.</li> <li>- Homework needs to be turned in 24 hours before the next class.</li> <li>- Depending on the way the term develops, this syllabus may be amended.</li> <li>- Late submissions will generally not be accepted, unless there is a good reason.</li> <li>- Students are expected to be punctual and attend all lessons. Students who are late for class or leave early may be marked as absent. If you have a good reason to leave early or come late (e.g., an accident on the way to class), communicate with me. If you cannot participate in class, for example because you are ill, please submit an official document (e.g., a doctor's note) within 7 days; otherwise you will be marked as absent.</li> <li>- If you miss three or more classes unexcused, you may be asked to withdraw from the class or be failed the class.</li> <li>- These terms may be subject to change.</li> </ul>		