



PH 202 Ethics (3)
Fall 2004
Instructor: Ken Nickel

Contacting the Instructor

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|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Office: | 551 | Office Phone: | 410-2000 (6903) |
| Class Times: | Tues/Thurs 4:00 p.m. | Class Location: | Room 714 |
| Email Address: | knickel@cbccts.ca | | |

Course Description

The course seeks to provide students with a general survey of the history of moral philosophy and to introduce them to the contemporary and ongoing debates surrounding ethical theorizing and the practice of applied ethics.

Objectives

1. Students should learn to appreciate the contributions of prominent historical figures in the development of the Western tradition of moral philosophy such as Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Hume, Kant, Mill, Nietzsche, among others.
2. Students should learn to articulate the general distinctions between metaethics, normative ethics, and applied ethics.
3. Students should learn to articulate some of the practical and conceptual implications of various schools of ethical thought such as utilitarianism, deontology, noncognitivism, intuitionism, among others.
4. Students should learn to appreciate how moral philosophy engages with important areas of allied study including, but not limited to, theology, education, and political and legal philosophy.

Required Readings

- 👉 The purchase of a text book will not be required for this course but there *will be* required readings throughout the term and these will be made available either through library reserve or by the instructor.

Recommended Text:

Pojman, L. P. (Ed.). (2000). *The Moral Life: An Introductory Reader in Ethics and Literature*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. Attendance and participation 20%
☞ Students are expected to attend each class session with an engaged frame of mind, prepared to contribute meaningful conversation to the topics under discussion. Each absence from class merits an immediate 1% deduction and class participation is assessed on the balance. For example, if a student misses three classes and generally participates excellently in class he or she generally cannot achieve more than 17/20 for this portion of his or her evaluation.
2. Seminar Presentation on an “Applied topic” 15%
☞ Choose one of the six applied topics and prepare a seminar that presents a reasoned position on the issue at hand. Seminars leaders are free to argue for a particular position but objections reflecting the strongest arguments from the opposing view must be addressed.
3. Six Page “Moral Issue” Research Paper 25%
☞ Due December 2nd
☞ This includes a short abstract identifying the topic and the general line of argumentation. Abstracts must be submitted via e-mail no later than Friday, November 12th by 4:00 PM..
4. Final exam : Date TBA 40%
☞ Students must pass the final exam to ensure a passing grade in the course. A student who performs well during the term but performs very poorly on the final exam may fail the course.

RESEARCH PAPERS

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

- ☞ Each paper is to be submitted electronically as an e-mail attachment by 4:00 PM on the assigned due date. No hard copy submission is not required. E-mails will be saved as ‘official submissions’ in the event of dispute over original content.
- ☞ Required word processing formats are either @Microsoft Word or @Word Perfect (i.e., .doc or .wpd files). Files are to be named as follows: (last name)(first initial)(PH202).doc or (last name)(first initial)(PH202).wpd.

LATE POLICY

- ☞ Late submissions (i.e., submissions after 4:00 PM on the due date) lose 5% for every 24 hours they are not submitted. Weekend days and holidays are counted the same as typical weekdays. Submissions more than 5 days (120 hours) late receive a failing grade.
- ☞ Papers and grades will be returned electronically to each student’s auc-nuc e-mail address.

RESEARCH PAPER FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

- 👉 Roughly 23 lines of text per page
- 👉 Double spaced (not e.g., 1.25, 1.95, 2.5, etc.)
- 👉 12pt Font (not e.g., 10, 11, 11.8, 12.5, etc.)
- 👉 New paragraphs should be indented with no additional space between paragraphs.
- 👉 Sentences should be separated by two spaces, not just one.
- 👉 1 inch (or 2.5 cm) margins.
- 👉 Citation guidelines can be found at www.auc-nuc.ca/pdf/cbc-style-guide.pdf .

MISCELLANEOUS

- 👉 See page 47 of the *AUC-NUC Academic Calendar* for a detailed grading scheme. Two major reasons for unrealized grade expectations for written work are (1) failures to proof read, often the result of not giving oneself enough time for multiple drafts, and (2) late submissions.
- 👉 Students should familiarize themselves with all academic regulations found in the *AUC-NUC Academic Calendar* (pages 46-51) giving specific attention to the issues of **plagiarism, academic dishonesty, and cheating** found on page 50.
- 👉 Students are responsible to check their auc-nuc e-mail account regularly. E-mail may be used to notify students of cancelled classes or other important details relating to the course.

COURSE OUTLINE¹

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|--------------------------|---|
| Sept 9 | Introduction |
| Sept 14 | Golding's <i>Lord of the Flies</i> |
| Historical Survey | |
| Sept 16 | Plato's <i>Euthyphro</i> : What is the good? |
| Sept 21 | Plato's <i>Republic</i> : What is morality? |
| Sept 23 | Aristotle's <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> |
| Sept 28 | No Class |
| Sept 30 | Stoics, Epicureans, & Skeptics |
| Oct 5 | Augustine, Aquinas & Ockham: Responses to 'The Euthyphro Problem' |
| Oct 7 | Hume's <i>Treatise of Human Nature</i> |
| Oct 12 | Kant's Practical Philosophy |
| Oct 14 | W.D. Ross's Intuitionism |
| Oct 19 | Mill & Bentham on Utilitarianism |
| Oct 21 | Nietzsche's <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i> |
| Oct 26 | |
| Oct 28 | No Class |

¹ This course outline is provisional and may, at the discretion of the instructor, require revision over the course of the term. The instructor reserves the right to deviate from the outline to accommodate, amongst other things, timely issues or pressing concerns.

Nov 2 *Sophie's Choice*
Nov 3 * 7:00-10:00PM - Public showing of *Bonhoeffer* (AUC or downtown church
 location)
Nov 4 Ethical Relativism
Nov 9
Nov 11 No Class
Applied Ethics
Nov 16 The Ethics of War and Peace
Nov 18 Sex, Love, and Marriage
Nov 23 Abortion
Nov 25 Bioethics
Nov 30 Addiction, Substance Use & Abuse
Dec 2 Duties to Animals & Environmental Ethics
Dec 7 Last Class: Review