

Philosophy 22: Introduction to Ethics

Summer C Session 2014

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Dodd 394

Office Hours:

Monday and Wednesday, immediately after lecture
Dodd 394 (or LuValle)

Course Information

This course is an introduction to some of the central issues in moral philosophy. We will begin by asking the question: how does one live a good life? We will look at influential answers to this question, beginning with Aristotle's account of the best human life. We will also explore questions like: Does the "good" really exist? Does morality require religion? Is morality bad for us? If morality *is* real, what makes an action good or bad, right or wrong? We will read what Hume, Kant and Mill, along with their modern counterparts, say about our moral obligations. We will then look at the modern moral issue of reproductive selection and disability.

Grade

Your grade will be comprised of the following components:

Reading Responses - 20%

Written Assignment (2-3 pages) - 20%

Paper (5-7 pages)- 30%

Final Exam - 30%

Weekly Reading Responses:

Each week you have the opportunity to write a 3/4 to 1 page (double-spaced) response to one of the week's readings. A hard copy of your response should be turned in at the beginning of Wednesday's lecture. In your response you can raise a question, contribute a thought, agree or disagree with the author's argument, etc. The response is NOT a summary of the reading. The response should show that you have critically engaged with the reading. The responses will be graded on a pass/fail basis. [4 pass - A; 3 pass - B; 2 pass - C; 1 pass - D; 0 pass - F]

Written Assignment and Paper:

The written assignment and paper will be due on Turnitin and as a hard copy at the beginning of lecture on the day they are due.

Please familiarize yourself with UCLA's student code of conduct (available here:

<http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/assets/documents/StudentCC.pdf>). If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me before turning in your work. All work is expected to be your own *and* original (not previously submitted to another class).

Course Reading Schedule

All readings will be posted on the course website. Readings are subject to change.

1. Aug 4- Introduction to Ethics

Recommended Reading: SEP, Morality

2. Aug 6- The good life: Aristotle's Ethics

Reading: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book I, II, VI, X

Korsgaard, "Aristotle's Function Argument"

Recommended Reading: Korsgaard, "Aristotle on Function and Virtue"

Nagel, "Aristotle's Eudaimonia"

Written assignment given out

3. Aug 11- Moral Foundations

Reading: Mackie, *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong*, Ch. 1

Berg, "Does Morality Depend on Religion?"

Plato, *Euthyphro*

4. Aug 13- Moral Skepticism

Reading: Harman, "Moral Relativism"

Sayre-McCord, "Moral Realism"

Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals*

5. Aug 18- Descriptive Morality

Reading: Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature*, 3.1.1 through 3.2.1

Sayre-McCord, "Hume on Practical Morality and Inert Reason"

Stevenson, "The Emotive Meaning of Ethical Terms"

Written assignment due

6. Aug 20- Prescriptive Morality - Deontology

Reading: Kant, *Groundwork to the Metaphysics of Morals*, 1-2

Foot, "Morality as a System of Hypothetical Imperatives"

7. Aug 25- Kant's Formula of Humanity

Readings: Korsgaard, Formula of Humanity

Rawls, *Lectures on Ethics*, Formula of Humanity

Paper Topic Assigned

8. Aug 27- Prescriptive Morality - Consequentialism

Reading: Mill, *Utilitarianism*

Rawls, "Utilitarianism"

Nozick, *Anarchy, State and Utopia*, The Experience Machine, 42-45

9. Sept 1- Objections to Consequentialism

Reading: Williams, "Against Utilitarianism"

Thomson, "The Trolley Problem"

Feinberg, "The Nature and Value of Rights"

10. Sept 3- Reproductive Selection and Disability

Reading: McMahan, "Causing Disabled People to Exist and Causing People to be Disabled"

Famhy, "On the Supposed Harm of Selecting for Deafness"

Recommended Reading: Facing Life with a Lethal Gene, NPR

Paper Due

11. Sept 8- Recap and Exam Review

12. Sept 10

Final Exam