



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 249 Lec 03
“Morality, Virtue, and Society”

Winter Term 2012

Course Outline

(Lectures: TR 11:00-12:15, ST145)

Instructor: Greg Janzen
Office: SS1220
Office Hour: M 12:00-13:00
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TA: David Boutland
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Office Hour: TBA
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Course Description

This course provides a general introduction to ethics. We will survey a range of competing ethical theories, both classical and modern, with particular emphasis given to the application of these theories to contemporary moral issues such as famine relief, euthanasia, and abortion. The primary objective of the course is to provide exposure to the depth and complexity (and often perplexity) of philosophical ethics, and to equip students with the skills to engage in such inquiry.

Text

The required text for the course is Steven Cahn and Peter Markie (eds.), *Ethics: History, Theory, and Contemporary Issues*, 5th edition (OUP). Additional required readings (or links to) will be made available on Blackboard.

Evaluation

There will be one short essay (3-4 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font) worth 15% of the final grade, a longer essay (5-6 pages) worth 25%, a mid-term in-class test worth 30%, and a take home final exam worth 30%. David Boutland will grade the essays. He will notify you in tutorial of his late assignment policy.

There is NO Registrar-scheduled final exam in this course.

Note that this course is not about teaching you *what* to think; it is about teaching you how to *reason about*, and how to *rationaly defend*, what you think. You will not be told what is true or false, or right or wrong (though I will occasionally express my opinion about what is true or false, or right or wrong); you will be *asked*. And it will not matter if I disagree with the particular answers you give. What will matter, in addition to your critical understanding of the readings and lectures, is how persuasively you defend and/or support your position compared to others who share your position.

The following conversion table will be used to calculate final letter grades:

< 50% F	60-63 C-	70-74 B-	86-91 A-
50-54 D	64-66 C	75-79 B	92-96 A
55-59 D+	67-69 C+	80-85 B+	97-100 A+

Assignment and Test Schedule

<u>Assignment/Test</u>	<u>Date Due/Given</u>
Essay 1	Thursday, February 2
Mid-Term Exam	Thursday, March 1
Essay 2	Thursday, March 29
Take-Home Final Exam	Friday, April 20

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as **an extremely serious academic offence**, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.