

PHIL 2103 Introduction to Ethics

SEMESTER

Summer I, 2023

INSTRUCTOR

Tori Cotton

EMAIL

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CLASS MEETINGS

JBHT 0266

MoTuWeThFr 11:00AM -
12:30PM

OFFICE HOURS

Mo 1:00-4:00 via ZOOM

COURSE OVERVIEW

Basic concepts of moral philosophy, including historical and contemporary literature concerned with such issues as ethical relativism vs. objectivism, duty, happiness, freedom of the will and responsibility, facts and values, individual liberty, and society. Application of theories to substantive questions.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

You will not need to buy any books for the course, however, you will require:

A Twitter account (feel free to make one for the sake of this course if you do not have one or do not want to use your own).

Access to a computer capable of taking blackboard exams via the internet.

A notebook or laptop for taking notes.

RESOURCES

Classroom twitter: @Phil2103S23.

WELCOME

Welcome to Introduction to Ethics! This introductory course is meant to provide Basic concepts of moral philosophy, including literature concerned with such issues as ethical relativism vs. objectivism, duty, happiness, freedom of the will and responsibility, facts and values, individual liberty and society. The class includes both historical and contemporary readings. There are no pre-requisites for the course.

My name is Tori! You are welcome to call me Tori, or Ms. Cotton. I am not a full professor, but a Graduate student instructor, so you do not need to call me professor. I am extremely excited to teach ethics this semester, and I look forward to getting to know you all in the short term.

COURSE FORMAT AND MATERIALS

Unless the University alters its policy, this course will meet in person. This is both a lecture and discussion-based course, I expect you to come to class ready to discuss and ask questions about the material. Sometimes, this may amount to group work, other times, it may come in the form of reading aloud, or through discussing a prompted question for the day. We will work with

varied materials, however there are no required texts for the course. Instead, I will upload all required readings to the blackboard course side.

PROFESSOR INFORMATION

ZOOM office hours are accessible from the course blackboard page. Each day has a designated link in the sidebar; all you need to do is click on it at the right time, and you will be taken to the relevant ZOOM lobby! If my office hours do not work with your schedule, I am more than happy to set up a meeting with you. To do so I need a few days' notice, and to be contacted by email to schedule this. Meetings may be either in-person or via ZOOM, based on your preference. In your emails to me, please include your course title, meeting time, and student ID number. On weekdays (M-F) I try to answer emails within a few hours of receiving them. Monday through Friday, my emails go straight to my phone, and I will respond to them as soon as I can. On weekends my responses will be a little slower, and dependent on when I check my email. I typically check my email once in the morning, and once in the late afternoon on weekends. Overall, I cannot guarantee that I can always answer your questions right away. Please allow 24 hours for me to answer your inquiries before re-mailing me. Closer to exams or due dates, it may take longer to get a response.

LATE WORK, MAKEUPS, AND EXTENSIONS

If you are unable to turn in a piece of work due to illness, death or emergency in the family, religious observance, or scholastic/leadership related university sponsored activity, you must contact me via email. I will make accommodations for you to take the exam at another time. Unfortunately, due to the condensed nature of a summer course, I cannot easily offer extensions unless it is for one of these reasons.. Please reach out to me if you have any questions, or if something comes up that might impact your ability to complete the course and I will try to work with you. I want you to succeed!

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

Center for Learning and Student Success Class: The Center for Learning and Student Success (CLASS+) works with students to refine and strengthen the academic skills necessary for success at the University of Arkansas. Call 479.575.2885 or visit the office in Gregson Hall, or visit their website.

Writing Center: CLASS+ Writing Support provides one-on-one tutoring assistance. You can work with writing tutors in person or upload your paper for online feedback. Writing tutors help you learn revision strategies for developing your academic and professional writing skills. Schedule a free online or in-person appointment. Call 479-575-6747 or email writcent@uark.edu. 315 Kimpel Hall, or visit their website. Center for Education Access: The Center for Educational Access (CEA) serves as the central campus resource for the University community in regards to students with disabilities and accommodations to remove barriers to access. Call 479-575-3104 or email ada@uark.edu. 209 Arkansas Union, or visit their website.

Counseling and Psychological Services: The staff of Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) works with members of the University to help solve problems, understand themselves, grow personally, develop more satisfying relationships with friends and family and help with other mental health issues. Services are provided by licensed psychologists, counselors, and social workers. Call 479-575-5276 to make an appointment, or visit their website. 24 hour emergency service available, Call (479) 575-5276.

Research Librarians: Ask a Librarian! Text: 479-385-0803, Call: 479-575-6645, email: refer@uark.edu.

Full Circle Pantry: The Jane B. Gearhart Full Circle Food Pantry is available as a free grocery assistance center for all U of A students, staff, and faculty. Full Circle is located on the backside of Walton Residence Hall and is open Mondays from 11a-3p,

Wednesdays from 3p-5p, and Thursdays from 10a-2p. If you need assistance outside of these hours, please email pantry@uark.edu to set up an alternate time. For more information visit fullcircle.uark.edu or email pantry2@uark.edu.

CEA ACCOMODATIONS

University of Arkansas Academic Policy Series 1520.10 requires that students with disabilities are provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodation, please contact me privately at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through the Center for Educational Access (contact 479-575-3104 or visit cea.uark.edu for more information on registration procedures).

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

As a core part of its mission, the University of Arkansas provides students with the opportunity to further their educational goals through programs of study and research in an environment that promotes freedom of inquiry and academic responsibility. Accomplishing this mission is only possible when intellectual honesty and individual integrity prevail. Each University of Arkansas student is required to be familiar with and abide by the University's 'Academic Integrity Policy' which may be found at <http://provost.uark.edu>. Students with questions about how these policies apply to a particular course or assignment should immediately contact their instructor.

GRADING POLICY

Performance (40%):

Online engagement and participation (20%): For the semester, you will be required to tweet 20 times @ the classroom twitter page. These responses can be as simple as asking a quick question, posting a song that reminds you of the topics we are discussing with a quick caption, responding to a posted poll or tweet, or responding to one of the texts we are reading. This amounts to roughly 4 tweets per week. It is in your best interest to space these out and please make sure you tag the account when you make your tweets! Please make sure that these tweets fall in line with university guidelines and are respectful to your peers. Classroom twitter: @Phil2103S23. Additionally, If you send me an email to the above-listed email address containing a drawing (done by you) of your best rendition of a snake wearing a sweater, I will award you 5 bonus points on your lowest grade average section for the course. This is added to your total averaged grade for any single section of the grading policy, so for instance, if you have a quiz average of 75%, this will boost that average to an 80%. Please note that regular attendance and class participation is expected. If you have questions on how to participate in a philosophy class, you might consult this short webpage (Olivia Bailey, But How do I participate): [chrome- https://obailey.weebly.com/uploads/1/0/5/6/105611057/but_how_do_i_participate_.pdf](https://obailey.weebly.com/uploads/1/0/5/6/105611057/but_how_do_i_participate_.pdf)

Quizzes (20%): At the end of each class, you will be given a short quiz, accessible from blackboard course website. It will cover the material which we reviewed that day in class. This quiz is timed and will last 10 minutes. It opens on at 12:20 pm each class day. It is open note and should be taken in class whenever possible. With the exception of the day 1 practice quiz. On days there is no listed reading, there is no required quiz. Your lowest 2 quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the course.

Formal Writing (30%):

Argumentative Paper (30%): You are required to author an argumentative paper of 5-7 pages, in which you clearly and thoroughly explain certain concepts and given in a text and provide an original argument for or against the material in

question. I am open to several topics, but I want this to be in the realm of applied philosophy. So for instance, instead of writing a paper about what Aristotle says about virtue, you could write a paper on how Aristotle's virtue ethics could back up your claims about what it means to be a good friend. Though I will post several suggested topics as the time comes, you are welcome to write on different topics that interest you, as long as you email me first to get approval. If you are unfamiliar with writing philosophy papers, which tend to differ from other types of argumentative writing, please email me, come to office hours, or otherwise set up a meeting with me. I am here to help, and I want you to succeed. You are similarly welcome to send me a draft of your work for comments, assuming that you give me ample time before the final deadline to make comments useful to you.

Examinations (15% each, for a total of 30%):

Exam 1: Your first exam will cover material directly following our unit on core ethical theories. Your exam will be taken at home, via blackboard. It will be available on the day of 6/16, and you must take it during class time – 11:00-12:30 AM. Exams are timed. You are welcome to use notes or readings to assist in your exam, but I would urge you not to rely heavily on notes due to time constraints. *Exam one date: 6/16

Exam 2: Your second exam will cover our readings over Descartes. Your exam will be taken at home, via blackboard. It will be available on the day of 6/30, and you must take it during class time – 9:15-10:45 AM. Exams are timed. You are welcome to use notes or readings to assist in your exam, but I would urge you not to rely heavily on notes due to time constraints. *Exam two date: 6/30

There will be no final examination for the course.

LETTER GRADES

GRADE	CO
A	89-100
B	79-88
C	69-78
D	59-68
F	<59

MAJOR DEADLINES

WEEK	ASSIGNMENT
June 16	Exam 1 (On Blackboard, during class time)
June 30	Exam 2 (On Blackboard, during class time)
June 30	Paper Deadline (By 11:59 PM)

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE: READINGS

*Readings and assignments are subject to change at my discretion.

WEEK 1	VIRTUE ETHICS
Monday	NO CLASS
Tuesday	Syllabus and Introduction
Wednesday	Plato, "Meno"
Thursday	Plato, "Euthyphro"
Friday	Spencer Case, "Because God Says So: On Divine Command Theory"
Week 2	UTILITY, PLEASURE, AND HAPPINESS
Monday	Aristotle, "The Nature of Virtue," Excerpt
Tuesday	G.E.M. Anscombe, "Modern Moral Philosophy"
Wednesday	T. Hurka, "Against Virtue Ethics," chapter 8 of Virtue, Vice, and Value.
Thursday	John Stuart Mill, "Utilitarianism"
Friday	Robert Nozick, "The Experience Machine" (In Anarchy, State, and Utopia pp. 42-45)
Week 3	DEONTOLOGY
Monday	Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality"
Tuesday	John Rawls, "A Theory of Justice" (excerpts)
Wednesday	Immanuel Kant "The Good Will and the Categorical Imperative," selections
Thursday	Christine Korsgaard, "On the Value of People and Animals"
Friday	Blackboard Exam 1, NO CLASS
Week 4	MORAL RELATIVISM AND ABORTION
Monday	NO QUIZ, however, read Jim Pryor, "Guidelines on Writing a Philosophy Paper" to prepare for a paper "jump-start" day!
Tuesday	Ben Thomas, "Eating People is Wrong – But It's Also Widespread and Sacred"
Wednesday	Troy Jollimore, "Godless Yet Good"
Thursday	Judith Jarvis Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion"
Friday	Mary Anne Warren "On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion"

Week 5	ANIMALS AND AGENCY
Monday	Don Marquis, "An Argument That Abortion Is Wrong"
Tuesday	Tim Regan, "The Case for Animal Rights"
Wednesday	Alastair Norcross, Puppies, Pigs, and People: Eating Meat and Marginal Cases"
Thursday	Marry Anne Warren, Difficulties with the Strong Animal Rights Position"
Friday	Blackboard Exam 2, NO CLASS, Papers Due
