

Fall 9-1-2003

## PHIL 200.03: Ethics - The Great Traditions

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**ETHICS: THE GREAT TRADITIONS  
PHIL 200E, SECTION 03 (CRN: 70768)  
UNIVERSITY HALL, ROOM 210  
TR 11:10 a.m. -12:30 p.m.  
FALL SEMESTER 2003**

Professor: David Sherman  
Office: LA 153, ext. 2607

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:**

This course will introduce the theories that underlie our ethical judgments and consider the ways in which they are applied to selected contemporary ethical issues. By the end of the course, you should be able to identify and critically assess the theoretical underpinnings of both your ethical positions and competing ones.

We begin the course with an exploration of the fundamental ethical concepts, knowledge of which is crucial for understanding what will follow. We then consider the ethical theories of Aristotle, Kant, and Mill, which, in large part, inform the nature and scope of virtue ethics, deontology, and consequentialism (utilitarianism), respectively, the three primary approaches to ethical thought today. This segment will constitute approximately 40% of the course. During the remaining 60% of the course, we address four contemporary ethical issues: abortion, the death penalty, international aid, and the treatment of the environment. We shall approach the articles that we consider in these areas analytically.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, tr. T. Irwin, Hackett (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.), 1999  
Immanuel Kant, *Groundings for the Metaphysics of Morals*, tr. J. Ellington, Hackett, 1993  
John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*, ed. G. Sher, Hackett, 1979  
Thomas Mappes and Jane Zembaty (eds), *Social Ethics*, MacGraw Hill (6th ed.), 2002

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:**

Three Exams: First (40%): Ethical Theory; Second (30%): Abortion and the Death Penalty; Third (30%): International Aid and Environmental Ethics

The exams are only tentatively scheduled for the dates set forth below. With the exception of the third exam, scheduled for December 19, I reserve the right to change these dates based upon the progress that we make in class. I shall give at least one week notice when confirming exam dates. In the event that you miss class, it is your responsibility to keep abreast of changes that are made to the schedule. Make-up exams will be arranged only in those situations in which there is an emergency or serious illness. In all such cases, I reserve the right to ask for evidence.

Although attendance records will not be kept, attendance is required, and, in any event, is necessary in order to do well in the course. Since close textual analysis is often required, you should always bring the relevant text to class.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

CLASS OF:	READINGS:
September 2 September 4	Introduction to Basic Ethical Concepts Introduction to Basic Ethical Concepts (continued)
September 9 September 11	Aristotle, <i>NE</i> Book I (1-18) Aristotle, <i>NE</i> Book II (18-30)
September 16 September 18	Aristotle, <i>NE</i> Book III (30-40) Aristotle, <i>NE</i> Books V and X (67-80; 162-171)
September 23 September 25	Kant, <i>GMM</i> Preface and Section 1 (1-17) Kant, <i>GMM</i> Sec 2 (19-48)
September 30 October 2	Kant, <i>GMM</i> Sec 3 (49-62) Mill, <i>U</i> (1-26)
October 7 October 9	Mill <i>U</i> (27-41) Mill <i>U</i> (42-64)
October 14 October 16	<b>FIRST EXAM</b> Intro. to Abortion; Warren, <i>M&amp;Z</i> (14-21); Marquis, <i>M&amp;Z</i> (22-27)
October 21 October 23	Thomson, <i>M&amp;Z</i> (28-38); Finnis (handout) Sherwin (53-58); Intro. to Death Penalty
October 28 October 30	Primoratz, <i>M&amp;Z</i> (127-132); Nathanson, <i>M&amp;Z</i> (133-139); Pojman, <i>M&amp;Z</i> (140-144); Reiman, <i>M&amp;Z</i> (145-150)
November 4 November 6	Eckholm, <i>M&amp;Z</i> (151-155 ) <b>SECOND EXAM</b>
November 11 November 13	<b>NO CLASS: VETERAN'S DAY</b> Intro. to International Aid; Singer <i>M&amp;Z</i> (396-403)
November 18 November 20	Hardin, <i>M&amp;Z</i> (404-410); Nielsen, <i>M&amp;Z</i> (411-414) Sen, <i>M&amp;Z</i> (415-421); Jacobsen, <i>M&amp;Z</i> (422-430)
November 25 November 27	Intro. to Environmental Ethics <b>NO CLASS-THANKSGIVING</b>
December 2 December 4	Baxter, <i>M&amp;Z</i> (480-485); Leopold, <i>M&amp;Z</i> (501-506) Rollin, <i>M&amp;Z</i> (506-512); Devall & Sessions, <i>M&amp;Z</i> (513-520)
December 9 December 11	Narveson, <i>M&amp;Z</i> (485-488); Smith, <i>M&amp;Z</i> (488-491) Guha, <i>M&amp;Z</i> (521-528)
December 19	<b>THIRD EXAM</b>