Spring 2-1-2019

PHL 110E.03: Introduction to Ethics

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Philosophy 110: Introduction to Ethics

Professor Matthew Strohl
Office hours: LA 147, TR 9-9:30, 12:30-1
Email: matthew.strohl@mso.umt.edu

Teaching assistant:
Henry Kramer: Henry.Kramer@umontana.edu

You may email Henry for notes 2-3 times over the course of the semester no questions asked. If English is not your first language or if you have DSS status and need a note taker, we can make arrangements for additional note sharing.

Website:
THERE ISN’T ONE. This syllabus is all you need. Grades will be on your exams, and you can always check with Henry if you’re unsure of how you’re doing. Please don’t email me 8 weeks into the term asking me how you can log into the Moodle page. There is no Moodle page. I discovered last semester that I’m one of the last holdouts on this, and I intend to conform for current practices, but this new short winter break was too short for me to get a handle on it.

Course description:
This course is a broad introduction to moral philosophy. We will cover topics in metaethics, normative ethics, and applied ethics. Readings will be drawn from both historical and contemporary sources.

Required textbook:
Ethics: History, Theory, and Contemporary Issues, sixth edition, ed. Steven M. Cahn and Peter Markie, Oxford University Press 2009. It should be possible to find this book used or to rent it online. The 5th edition overlaps a good deal, but is missing a reading or two.

Grading and exams:
There will be three exams. They will be short answer. You should bring a blue book. They will each be worth about a third of your grade. The final will be half cumulative and half new material. You will receive a study guide narrowing down the material that will be included in the cumulative portion.

Attendance:
Missing class is not a good idea. If you need to miss class two or three times during the term for a legitimate reason you may ask your TA for notes. Beyond that you need to make a special arrangement with me.

Academic misconduct:
You are strictly held to the University of Montana Student Conduct Code (http://www.umt.edu.SA). The in-class exams are closed-note: you may not consult anything but your own mind in order to answer questions on the exam. You may not use cell-phones, or any electronic devices to aid you, nor fellow
students, nor fellow students' answers on exams, etc. You will receive no credit for any exam that you cheat on. Your conduct will also be reported to the Dean.

Special needs:
Students with registered disabilities will receive reasonable modifications in this course. Please speak with me before or after class if you need to make special arrangements. Your responsibilities are to request them from me with sufficient advance notice and to be prepared to provide verification of disability and its impact from Disability Services. For more information, visit the Disability Services for Students website at www.umt.edu/dss/

Schedule:
1/10 Hi, I’m Matt, here’s your syllabus, see you Thursday.

1/15 Plato, Republic, Book II, 357a-369c (marginal numbers) If you don’t have the book yet, you can find an acceptable translation on the Internet Classics Archive or the Perseus Project. The former does not have marginal numbers, but you should just read until the discussion of the analogy between city and soul.

1/17 Plato, Republic, Book IV

1/22 cont.

1/24 Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, Book I

1/29 Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics Book II

1/31 cont.

2/5 Hobbes, Leviathan, Chapters XIII-XIV

2/7 Rachels, “Egoism and Moral Skepticism”

2/12 Review

2/14 Exam 1

2/19 Bentham, An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation

2/21 Mill, Utilitarianism II

2/26 Mill, Utilitarianism III

2/28 Williams, “A Critique of Utilitarianism” (skip first section)

3/5 Kant, Groundwork I

3/7 Cont.

3/12 Kant, Groundwork II

3/14 cont., Review.

3/19 Exam 2
3/21 Bonus spring break day: no class!
3/26-28 Official spring break
4/2 Rawls, A Theory of Justice, 3, 4, 11, 24, 40
4/4 Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality”
4/9 Wolf, “Moral Saints”
4/11 Thomson, “A Defense of Abortion”
4/16 Final Exam study guide discussion and TA-led review session
4/18 out of town, no class
4/25 Marquis, “An Argument that Abortion is Wrong”
Final exam: 8-10AM Thursday, May 2 in the same room where the class meets. Sorry, I don’t get to pick the time.