

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana Course Syllabi

Open Educational Resources (OER)

Spring 2-1-2006

PHIL 300E.01: Systematic Ethics

Christopher J. Preston

University of Montana, Missoula, christopher.preston@mso.umt.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Preston, Christopher J., "PHIL 300E.01: Systematic Ethics" (2006). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 10826.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/10826>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Educational Resources (OER) at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

SYSTEMATIC ETHICS
PHIL 300

Professor: Christopher J. Preston
Classroom: LA 205
Class time: Tuesday and Thursday, 11.10 p.m. – 12.30 p.m.
Office: LA 148
Office hours: Tuesday 4-5pm, Wednesday 12-1pm, 2-3pm.
Phone: 243-2527
E-mail: Christopher.Preston@mso.umt.edu

1. Course Introduction:

This class will involve a detailed study of four major ethical theories that are central to the western tradition. We will study Kant, Mill, Aristotle, and a selection of feminist ethics. We will be staying close to the original texts, working hard to understand the difficult readings. This class has a pre-requisite of PHIL 215.

2. Reading Material (required):

Immanuel Kant – *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals* (Hackett Publishing 1993)
John Stuart Mill – *Utilitarianism*, tr. James Ellington (Hackett Publishing, 1979)
Aristotle – *Nichomachean Ethics*, tr. Martin Oswald (Prentice Hall, 1999)
Grace Clement – *Care, Autonomy, and Justice* (Westview, 1996)

3. General Expectations:

I expect you to come to class having carefully read the material assigned for that week. As we talk about the reading, I will seek opinions on various topics and may pick out individuals to answer questions relevant to the reading and lecture. Please be prepared to discuss the issues and to bring your own questions and concerns to everyone's attention. I also expect you to contribute **positively** to a community of learning. This means being respectful of those around you in the class at all times, including myself. You are expected to attend class, to not disrupt those around you unnecessarily, and to stay for the duration of each class period. Complete academic integrity at every point of the course is a necessity. Any academic dishonesty will lead to an automatic F for your semester grade and a meeting with the appropriate academic authorities. There will be no exceptions to this zero tolerance policy on academic dishonesty.

Some assignments in this class may require familiarity with Blackboard and E-res at the library. Please ensure that you know how to access these two digital services.

4. Reading Assignments (provisional):

Week 1 (Jan 24, 26): KANT (1-5, 7-8)

Week 2 (Jan 31, Feb 2): KANT (8-14, 14-23)

Week 3 (Feb 7, 9): KANT (23-36, 36-48)

Week 4 (Feb 14, 16): KANT (55-56, 63-65), MILL (1-5)
- Kant Test, Feb 16th -

Week 5 (Feb 21, 23): MILL (6-16, 16-25)

Week 6 (Feb 28, Mar 2): MILL (26-33, 34-40)

Week 7 (Mar 7, 9): MILL (41-57)
- Mill Test, Mar 9th -

Week 8 (Mar 14, 16): ARISTOTLE (3-19, 19-32)

Week 9 (Mar 21, 23): ARISTOTLE (32-41, 41-51, 68-82)

SPRING BREAK

Week 10 (April 4, 6): ARISTOTLE (146-156, 161-163, 167-170)
- Aristotle Test, Apr 6th -

Week 11 (April 11, 13): FEMINIST ETHICS (1-9, 11-20)

Week 12 (April 18, 20): FEMINIST ETHICS (21-44, 45-65)

Week 13 (April 25, 27): FEMINIST ETHICS (45-65, 67-88)

Week 14 (May 2, 4): FEMINIST ETHICS (89-107)
- Feminist Ethics Test, May 4th -

5. Course Requirements:

- a) Reading Tests (40 points). Four times during the semester there will be a 30 minute in-class quiz to test your comprehension of the books we have been reading. I will be handing out study questions a week before each test.
- b) Attendance and Participation (20 points). Attendance and participation is required in this class. I shall be taking attendance at unannounced points during the semester.
- c) Campus Talk (10 points). As part of your grade for this class, I require that you attend one extra-curriculum campus talk or event of your own choice. The event must address an issue that contains an ethical dimension of some kind. After attending the talk, you must hand in a two page write up that includes some of your own ethical analysis of the topic. Suitable events can be found in the *Kaimen*, the *Missoulian*, the *Independent*, posted on flyers around campus, and on the website <http://www.umt.edu/news>. If you hear of a suitable upcoming campus event, you should feel free to announce it at the start of class. You may not use an event that you are required to attend for another class. I would prefer that you complete this assignment before spring break.
- d) Office Visit (10 points). You must visit me in an office hour at least once before spring break. You can use this office hour however you wish for help with the reading or assignments. I hope that you will use office hours more than once. But it is important that I get to check in with you to see how things are going.
- d) Final Assignment (20 points). Each student is required to turn in a four-page, double-spaced, closing essay that decisively states your preference for one (or two) of the ethical theories discussed over the others. Argue for your preference in terms of specific theoretical or practical advantages. Point out at least one weakness of your preferred theory. This essay will be due in hard copy or as an attachment to an e-mail at noon on Monday, May 8th. Late papers will be penalized 4 points for every day late.

5. Additional remarks:

If you have any physical or learning disability that may make it hard for you to complete the requirements of this class, let me know right away and I will be happy to make appropriate accommodating arrangements.

I encourage you to use my office hours. I am paid to help you with this class! It is a good idea to use office hours as much as you need. Five or ten minutes of discussion can sometimes really help to clarify things. Use e-mail to stay in touch.

Finally, I ask you to contribute to the best learning environment possible as we share time together this semester. With your help, this class will be challenging, stimulating, and – I hope – helpful to whatever path you choose.