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PHL 110E.02: Introduction to Ethics

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Philosophy 110: Introduction to Ethics

Professor Matthew Strohl

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Office: LA 147

Office hours: TR 12:30-1:30 and by appointment

Teaching assistant: Ali Brill

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TA office hours: on Zoom, Wednesdays 12:30-1:30 and by appointment

TA office hours zoom link: <https://umontana.zoom.us/j/99337590339>

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.

Grading and exams:

There will be four take home exams. The fourth exam will be comprehensive but you will be able to skip questions. We will drop your lowest grade. Part of the point of this is to provide a buffer for people who get COVID and miss a chunk of class. This way they don't necessarily have to catch up, because they can skip one exam and then have it dropped.

Tests will be graded holistically on correctness, apparent effort level, and apparent engagement level.

Don't come to class if you have any symptoms at all:

If you are concerned about missing class, please be in touch with us, but DO NOT come to class if you have any COVID or flu symptoms.

You must wear a mask over both your mouth and nose while you are in the classroom. This is not up to me. Keep in mind that some of your classmates or their loved ones may have underlying conditions that make this a matter of life and death for them.

Academic misconduct:

You are strictly held to the University of Montana Student Conduct Code (<http://www.umt.edu.SA>). Do not plagiarize! If you use any outside sources, at least be sure to cite them. You will receive no credit for any assignment that you cheat on. Your conduct will also be reported to the Dean.

Special needs:

Students with disabilities will receive reasonable modifications in this course. Please speak with me before or after class if you need to make special arrangements. Your responsibility is to request them from me with sufficient advance notice. For more information, visit the Disability Services for Students website at www.umt.edu/dss/

I am also willing to consider reasonable accommodations for students who are not officially registered with DSS. Just ask.

Schedule:

- 1/18 Intro
- 1/20 Plato, Republic II (stop reading at the point where Socrates introduces the comparison between a just city and a just soul).
- 1/25 Plato, Republic IV
- 1/27 continued
- 2/1 Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics I (chapters 1-5, 7, 13)
- 2/3 continued
- 2/8 Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics II (chapters 1-6)
- 2/10 continued
- 2/15 spillover/review
- 2/17 **Exam due (upload on Moodle), Intro to Normative Ethics (no reading, but we are meeting for lecture)**
- 2/23 Mill, Utilitarianism, chapter 2
- 2/25 Kant, Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals I
- 3/1 continued
- 3/3 Kant, Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals II
- 3/8 continued
- 3/10 continued
- 3/15 spillover/review
- 3/17 **Exam due (upload on Moodle), NO CLASS**
- 3/22-3/24 spring break
- 3/29 Rawls, selections from *A Theory of Justice* (3, 4, 11, 24, 40)
- 3/31 Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality"
- 4/5 James Rachels, "Psychological and Ethical Egoism"
- 4/7 Judith Jarvis Thompson, "A Defense of Abortion"
- 4/12 Mary Anne Warren, "On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion"
- 4/14 Don Marquis, "An Argument that Abortion is Wrong"
- 4/19 James Rachels, "The Challenge of Cultural Relativism," review.
- 4/21 **Exam due (upload on Moodle) NO CLASS**
- 4/26 Charles Taylor, "The Meaning of Life"
- 4/28 Movie: *Palm Springs*
- 5/3 continued
- 5/5 discussion, final review.

Final writing assignment due on Wed, May 11th at noon (upload on Moodle).