

9-2011

## PHL 110E.03: Introduction to Ethics

Albert Borgmann

*University of Montana-Missoula*, [albert.borgmann@umontana.edu](mailto:albert.borgmann@umontana.edu)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

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

---

### Recommended Citation

Borgmann, Albert, "PHL 110E.03: Introduction to Ethics" (2011). *Syllabi*. 1019.  
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/1019>

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

**Borgmann  
Autumn 2011  
PHL 110**

## **INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS**

### **The Pursuit of Happiness**

#### **I. Intent of the Course**

The intent of the course is to teach the standard versions of contemporary ethics and so to equip students with ethical literacy—the ability to recognize the origin and context of ethical arguments and the ability to convey one's ethical convictions with clarity and circumspection. The focus of the course is on the pursuit of happiness. Students will learn how the great traditions and contemporary social theory understand happiness.

#### **II. Readings**

We will read the texts in the following order and spend about three and a half weeks each on Kant, Mill, Aristotle, and Welch and the preceding Seligman selections.

Seligman, Authentic Happiness, chs. 1-4.

Kant, Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals, sections 1 and 2.

Seligman, chs. 5-7.

Mill, Utilitarianism, all of it.

Seligman, chs. 8-10.

Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, books 1-5 and 10.

Seligman, chs. 11-14.

Welch, Fools Crow, all of it.

#### **III. Requirements**

The tests will be graded according to the stepped traditional grading system: A, A-, B+, B, B-, etc.

There will be weekly 20 minute tests, usually on Thursdays. The first test will be on Thursday, September 15. Each test will consist of (a) three questions that will test your command of the course content and are to be answered with brief statements of about 30 words total for each question; (b) a question that asks you to identify the philosophical point of a passage taken from the readings. It is to be answered in about 30 words; and (c) an essay question to be answered in 150 to 200 words. The three answers to the questions in part (a) will jointly receive a letter grade. The answer to (b) will be graded P (passing) or U (unsatisfactory). The answer to (c) will be graded P, U, or E (excellent). A P will raise the grade for (a) by one step (e.g., B to B+); U will lower it by one step (e.g., B to B-); E will raise it by two steps (e.g., B to A-). The tests will be returned on the following Tuesday, and you are expected to receive the test that day and to keep your tests to track your progress in the course and to prepare for the final.

On the day of the final, Tuesday, December 13 at 10:10 a.m., there will be a final test of twelve course content questions, nine drawn from previous tests, three on the material of the preceding week. The final test will have the weight of three ordinary tests. To pass the course, you have to pass the final.

You can make up one missed test without an excuse. Otherwise you can make up a missed test only (a) for medical reasons if you provide a statement from your physician or the Health Service, (b) if you are away on University business, (c) if there is a real hardship. Otherwise you will receive an F for a missed test. You can take over one test (not a make-up, however) by December 1. The higher grade of the two tests (regular and take-over) will count.

#### **IV. Office Hours**

Borgmann: TWR, 11:00-11:30 and by appointment in LA 149.

Phone and messages: 243-2792. e-mail: [Albert.Borgmann@umontana.edu](mailto:Albert.Borgmann@umontana.edu)

**Please let us know if you have a disability so that we can make accommodations.**