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PHIL 200.01: Ethics

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PHILOSOPHY 200 – ETHICS

McGlynn

Office: L.A. 101B
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Texts for Course:
- Nicomachean Ethics, Aristotle
- Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals, Kant
- Utilitarianism, Mill
- On the Genealogy of Morals, Nietzsche

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Jan. 25   Introduction
Jan. 27-29  Aristotle, Bks. I. & II.
Feb. 1-5   Aristotle, Bks. III & IV.
Feb. 8-12  Aristotle, Bks. V & X
Feb. 15   Wash./Lincoln Birthday: NO CLASS
Feb. 17   Aristotle Review
Feb. 19  ARISTOTLE EXAM
Feb. 22-26  Kant, Translator’s Intro., Preface and 1st Section
Mar. 1-5   Kant, 2nd & 3rd Sections
Mar. 8    Finish Kant
Mar. 10   Kant Review
Mar. 12  KANT EXAM
Mar. 15-19  SPRING BREAK — NO CLASSES
Mar. 22-26  Mill, Chpts. 1 & 2
Mar. 29-Apr. 2  Mill, Chpts. 3 & 4
Apr. 5-7   Mill, Chpt. 5
Apr. 9    Mill Review
Apr. 12  MILL EXAM
Apr. 14   Nietzsche, Intro.
Apr. 16   Nietzsche, Genealogy, First Essay
Apr. 19-23  Nietzsche, Genealogy, First & Second Essays
Apr. 26-30  Nietzsche, Genealogy, Second & Third Essays
May 3    Finish Nietzsche
May 5    Nietzsche Review
May 7-9  General Review

FINAL EXAMS: Sec. 2: Tues. May 11, 8:00-10:00 [9:00 class]
        Sec. 3: Thurs. May 13, 8:00-10:00 [11:00 class]
NOTE: All reading assignments are given by the week. This means that I expect you to have read the week's assignment before coming to class the first day of that week. There is not an excessive amount of reading for this course, but the readings are frequently difficult. You will gain the maximum benefit from this material only if you always come to class prepared. While the class is large, I do expect you to ask questions. You should take your lecture notes back to the reading each day and check to see whether the lectures and your notes have helped you to understand the material. If they do not, jot down questions and come to the next class session prepared to ask them.

The expected outcome of this course is that you will understand and be able to explain the essential elements of the theories of ethics of Aristotle, Kant and Mill, and that you will understand Nietzsche's critique of Western morality, particularly Christian morality. The means of evaluating your achieving these outcomes will be the listed examinations. They will all be essay examinations on questions pertinent to the theories of the various philosophers. The final examination will be split into two parts. The first part will be an exam on Nietzsche, like the other exams on the individual figures. The second part will ask you to make comparisons and evaluations of the positions of more than one philosopher on an issue central to ethics. Your ability to write a cogent argumentative essay is an essential element to success in this course. Your essays will be graded for the clarity of writing and grammar, as well as for content. If you have not yet taken English 101 or suspect that you have writing problems, you might wish to delay taking this course until you have corrected whatever writing problems you may have.

Regarding Class Attendance: In a class this large, it is impossible to take daily attendance. The consequences of missing too many classes will presumably show up in the quality of your work. It is important, however, to get notes from some other student or from one of my readers, if you miss a class. Further note: In recent years the courtesy of students to other students in a class, particularly a large class, seems to have suffered a significant decline. If you are late for class by more than five minutes, do not enter the classroom. Late entrance is very disturbing to the other students in the class. If you have to leave a class early for any reason other than sudden illness, you must check with me before the class to let me know you need to leave. Please also sit in an aisle seat near the back door if you have to leave, so that your leaving will cause a minimum disturbance.