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PHIL 520.01: Foundations of Moral Philosophy

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PHILOSOPHY 520
Foundations of Moral Philosophy
Summer 2001

Professor Deni Elliott
243-6632
Office Hours By Appointment

Office: Practical Ethics Center
ElliottD@mso.umt.edu

This intensive two-week seminar introduces teachers of practical ethics to the three major theories that serve as the foundation for Western moral philosophy. The seminar will also cover feminist critiques and use of the theories and critiques in teaching practical ethics.

Day Schedule

9-10:15	Large Group Conceptual Work
10:15-10:30	Break
10:30-11:30	Large Group Conceptual Work
11:30-Noon	Questions and Afternoon Exercise Explanation
12:00-3	Lunch; Group or Individual Work
3-4	Large Group Summary Session (except Wednesday)

Formal Instruction will end each Wednesday at Noon.

Course Expectations: The class is offered Audit, Pass/Fail, or Traditional Grading.

Students taking the course for a traditional grade are expected to attend all sessions, to complete group and individual exercises, and take the final exam.

Students taking the course Pass/Fail are expected to attend all sessions, and to complete group and individual exercises.

Students who are auditing the course are expected to attend all sessions, to participate in group activities and are encouraged to complete the exercises.

Texts:

Aristotle, *The Ethics of Aristotle, The Nicomachean Ethics*, translated by J.A.K. Thomson (New York: Penquin Books) 1976

Kant, Immanuel, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, translated by H.J. Paton (New York: Harper Torchbooks) 1964

Kant, Immanuel, *Lectures on Ethics*, translated by Louis Infield (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company) 1979

Mill, John Stuart, *On Liberty and Other Essays* (New York: Oxford University Press) 1991

FacPac

Students are encouraged to use these translations/editions (all are recent printings), but other translations or editions are acceptable.

Please read course material at least once prior to the August session, and don't let the primary texts intimidate you! I will provide detailed concept outlines during the seminar.

During the seminar weeks, please explore the Ethics Center library and the collections of handouts put together for summer short courses. You may make copies at the Center at the cost of 5 cents per page.

Daily Concept and Reading Schedule

Please complete all reading prior to the relevant class session

Monday, August 13

Introductions

Classical Moral Philosophy and the 20th Century Ethicist

What Ethics Is/What Ethics Is Not

The Ambiguity of "Do The Right Thing"

Four Methods of Ethics Analysis

A Confusion About The Purpose of Ethical Analysis

If Aristotle were Alice Stotle.....

Reading Assignment: Anderson, "Why Formal Ethical Theory..."

Tuesday, August 14

The Proper Subject for Ethical Analysis: Person, Motive, Consequence

Morality/Ethical Awareness as Part of Human Growth

An Introduction to Moral Development

Virtue as Habit
The Virtues and The Mean
The Problem of Free Will

Reading Assignment: Aristotle, Introduction, Books I, II, III
Baier, "What Do Women Want in a Moral Theory?"
Gatens, "The Feminist Critique of Philosophy"
Held, "Feminist Transformations of Moral Theory"
Woodward, "What is Virtue?"

Wednesday, August 15

Justice and Injustice
Distributive Justice
Rectificatory Justice and Inequality
The Role of Intellect in Making Decisions about Conduct

Reading Assignment: Aristotle, Books IV, V, VI

Thursday, August 16

The Special Class of Moral Virtues
The Right Frame of Mind for Making Decisions about Conduct
Friendship and Equality
Pleasure and Virtue
Happiness, Contemplation, and Moral Activity
Education in Goodness

Reading Assignment: Aristotle, Books VII, VIII, IX, X
Groenhout, "The Virtue of Care: Aristotelian Ethics & Contemporary
Ethics of Care"
Homiak, "Feminism and Aristotle's Rational Ideal"

Friday, August 17

Moral Development Theory
Ethics as Equity/Ethics as Care
The Purpose of Reason and the Nature of Good Will
The Role of Duty in Morality
The Use of Generalization in Analyzing Particular Decisions
The Categorical Imperative

Reading Assignment: Kant, **Lectures on Ethics** -- The Supreme Principle of Morality, Introductory Observations, Duties Arising From Differences of Age, The Ultimate Destiny of the Human Race, **Groundwork**, Chapter I (and Paton's analysis)

Monday, August 20

The Nature of Moral Rules: Universality and Impartiality
Duties Toward Self and Others
Perfect and Imperfect Duties
Humanity as End rather than Means
Heteronomy and Autonomy

Reading Assignment: Kant, **Lectures on Ethics** -- Duties Toward the Body in Regard to Life, Suicide, Duties Toward Others, Ethical Duties Toward Others: Truthfulness
Groundwork, Chapter II (and Paton's analysis)
Egonsson, "Kant's Vegetarianism"

Tuesday, August 21

Freedom and Autonomy
A Comparison of Kant and Aristotle on The Intellect
A Comparison of Kant and Aristotle on Friendship
Individual or Relationship as the Ultimate Subject of Moral Worth

Reading Assignment: Kant, **Lectures on Ethics** -- Duties Toward the Body in Respect of Sexual Intercourse, *Crimina Carnis*, Friendship, Duties Dictated by Justice, Equity
Groundwork, Chapter III (and Paton's analysis)
Herman, "Can It Be worth Thinking About Kant on Sex & Marriage?"
Nagl-Docekal, "Feminist Ethics: How It Could Benefit From Kant"
Sarver, "Kant's Purported Social Contract..."
Schott, "Feminism and Kant..."
Sedgwick, "Can Kant's Ethics Survive the Feminist Critique"

Wednesday, August 22

The Individual and Community
Self-Regarding and Other-Regarding Behavior
Freedom of Thought and Speech

Reading Assignment: Mill, *On Liberty* (entire essay)

Thursday, August 23

Utility as a Social Concept

Protection of the Individual

A Comparison of the Categorical Imperative and Utilitarianism

The Move in Ethical Analysis from Character to Rules to Acts

Reading Assignment: Mill, *Utilitarianism* (entire essay)

Morales, "The Foundation of Millian Communities"

Okin, "Justice, Gender and the Family"

Friday, August 24

An Argument for Gender Equality

Equality as Diversity rather than Assimilation

Final Exam (for students traditional receiving grades only)

Reading Assignment: Mill, *The Subjection of Women* (entire essay)