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PHIL 200E.01: Ethics - The Great Traditions

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ETHICS: THE GREAT TRADITIONS

I. Intent of the Course

The academic intent of the course is to teach the three standard versions of contemporary secular ethics and a feminist and a non-Western version of ethics, and so to equip the student with ethical literacy--the ability to recognize the origin and context of ethical arguments and the ability to convey one's ethical convictions clearly and circumspectly. This is the formal and testable side of the course. The informal and moral aspect that should not and cannot really be tested is the common endeavor to become better people.

II. Readings

We will read the texts in the following order and spend about three weeks on each.

- (1) Mill, Utilitarianism (all of it).
- (2) Kant, Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals, 1st and 2nd sections.
- (3) Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, Books I-V and X.
- (4) Gilligan, In A Different Voice (all of it).
- (5) Welch, Fools Crow (all of it).

III. Requirements

There will be a 20 minute test every week. The first will be on **Thursday, September 20**. 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 context of a passage taken from the readings and is to be answered in about 30 words; and (c) an essay question that asks you to state your agreement or disagreement with the passage quoted in (b) and is to be answered in 100 to 150 words. 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. C- to C); U will lower it by one step (e.g. C- to D+); E will raise it by two steps (e.g. C- to C+).

On the day of the final, **Monday, December 17, at 10:10 AM**, there will be a final test of (a) twelve course content questions, nine drawn from previous tests, three on the material of the preceding week, (b) text identifications drawn from selected readings, and (c) an essay question on the texts cited in (b). The final test will have the weight of three ordinary tests. To pass the course, you have to pass the final.

You can miss two tests (except the final test). If you take all the tests, the two lowest grades (or two thirds of the final if that is your lowest grade) will be dropped. You can make up a test missed 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 you are the parent of a small child and there is a medical emergency with your child. I cannot accept any other excuses. Otherwise you will receive an F for a missed test.

IV. Note

****September 24** is the last day to add and drop courses by DIAL BEAR.

****October 15** is the last day to add and drop classes and change the grading option by paper form.

Office Hours:

Borgmann: MWF, 8:10-9:00 AM and by appointment. LA 149.
Phone and messages: 243-2792.

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