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PHL 110E.03: Introduction to Ethics

Matthew S. Strohl

University of Montana - Missoula, matthew.strohl@umontana.edu

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Philosophy 110: Introduction to Ethics

Professor Matthew Strohl

Office hours: LA 147, TR 9-9:30, 12:30-1

Email: matthew.strohl@mso.umt.edu

Teaching assistants:

Students with last names beginning in:

A-K: Anne Belldina: anne.belldina@umontana.edu

L-Z: Henry Kramer: henry.kramer@umconnect.umt.edu

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.

Required textbook:

Ethics: History, Theory, and Contemporary Issues, 6th edition, ed. Steven M. Cahn and Peter Markie, Oxford University Press 2009. It should be possible to find this book used or to rent it online. Make sure you're getting the 6th edition. The 5th edition overlaps a good deal, but is missing a reading or two.

Grading and exams:

There will be three exams. They will be short answer. You should bring a blue book. They will each be worth about a third of your grade. The final will be half cumulative and half new material. You will receive a study guide narrowing down the material that will be included in the cumulative portion.

Attendance:

Missing class is not a good idea. If you need to miss class two or three times during the term for a legitimate reason you may ask your TA for notes. Beyond that you need to make a special arrangement with me.

Please do not text or use electronic devices during class. The only exception is if you have the e-book, but I expect that you will not be using the device for other purposes at the same time. I will call you out in an embarrassing manner if necessary.

Academic misconduct:

You are strictly held to the University of Montana Student Conduct Code (<http://www.umt.edu.SA>). The in-class exams are closed-note: you may not consult anything but your own mind in order to answer questions on the exam. You may not use cell-phones, or any electronic devices to aid you, nor fellow students, nor fellow students' answers on exams, etc. You will receive no credit for any exam that you cheat on. Your conduct will also be reported to the Dean.

Special needs:

Students with registered disabilities will receive reasonable modifications in this course. Please speak with me before or after class if you need to make special arrangements. Your responsibilities are to request them from me with sufficient advance notice and to be prepared to provide verification of disability and its impact from Disability Services. For more information, visit the Disability Services for Students website at www.umt.edu/dss/

Schedule:

- 8/28 Hi, I'm Matt, here's your syllabus, see you Thursday.
- 8/30 Plato, *Republic*, Book II, 357a-369c (marginal numbers)
- 9/4 Plato, *Republic*, Book IV
- 9/6 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book I
- 9/11 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* Book II
- 9/13 cont.
- 9/18 Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters XIII-XIV
- 9/20 Feinberg, "Psychological Egoism." Review.
- 9/25 **EXAM 1**
- 9/27 Bentham, *An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*
- 10/2 Mill, *Utilitarianism* II
- 10/4 **Out of town, no class**
- 10/9 Mill, *Utilitarianism* III
- 10/11 Williams, "A Critique of Utilitarianism"
- 10/16 Kant, *Groundwork* I
- 10/18 cont.
- 10/23 Kant, *Groundwork* II
- 10/25 cont.
- 10/30 Review
- 11/1 **EXAM 2**
- 11/6 **Election Day, no class**
- 11/8 Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, 3, 4, 11, 24, 40
- 11/13 Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality"
- 11/15 Wolf, "Moral Saints"
- 11/20 Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion"
- 11/22 **Thanksgiving, no class**
- 11/27 Warren, "On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion"
- 11/29 Marquis, "An Argument that Abortion is Wrong"
- 12/4 Shue, "Torture"
- 12/6 Rachels, "Egoism and Moral Skepticism." Review.

Final exam: 10:10-12:10 on Wed, Dec 12 in the same room where the class meets.