

## **Philosophy 201**

### **Introduction to Ethics**

**Fall 2009**

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Course Description: This course explores the major problems and questions of moral philosophy from ancient to contemporary times by applying various theories to historical and contemporary moral issues.

Course Requirements:

- (1) Reading of assigned materials in all textbooks;
- (2) Regular, punctual, active attendance in class sessions;
- (3) Completion of three examinations.

Textbooks: Three textbooks are required. The appropriate portions of each textbook should be read before the date on which the material will be addressed in class. Subsequent readings will help the student gain a more thorough understanding. The three texts are:

McInerney, Ralph. A Student's Guide to Philosophy, ISI Books

Rachels, Stuart and James Rachels. The Elements of Moral Philosophy, McGraw-Hill

Rachels, Stuart and James Rachels. The Right Thing to Do, McGraw-Hill

Examinations: Three examinations are required. Only under the most extreme circumstances will make-up examinations be permitted.

In-class examinations are multiple choice exams. On examination days, please be certain to bring two sharpened number two pencils.

Make-up examinations are essay exams. If receiving permission to make up an exam, please be certain to bring three college "blue books" the day of the make-up examination.

If a make-up examination is approved, it must be completed within seven days of approval. If a make-up examination is approved for the final examination, the student must receive an "incomplete" for the course for the fall semester.

Grading is based upon the following components:

Examination 1 is 30% of the grade;

Examination 2 is 35% of the grade;

Examination 3 (Final Examination) is 35% of the grade.

Accommodations: Any student needing special accommodations must inform the professor no later than the fourth day of class (September 10, 2009).

E-mail address: Each student should provide the professor her or his e-mail address on the third day of class. Dr. Atra will send necessary communication via e-mail to every student for whom he has a current e-mail address.

While slight adjustments to the following schedule may be required, the course will largely progress through the

assigned topics and issues on the days indicated. The required readings in A Student's Guide to Philosophy (G), The Elements of Moral Philosophy (E), and The Right Thing to Do (R) are provided. For example, G, 1-26 indicates that pages one through twenty-six in A Student's Guide to Philosophy should be read prior to that lecture.

On a day in which a reading from a textbook will be addressed in class, students should bring that book to class on that day. For example, on October 1 The Elements of Moral Philosophy (E) should be brought to class.

On November 19 students should bring to class both The Elements of Moral Philosophy (E) and The Right Thing to Do (R).

On each of the following days - September 24, October 27, December 10 - all three textbooks should be brought to class in anticipation of the upcoming examination.

Attendance is greatly important. Dr. Atra addresses Introduction to Ethics in many different sections, all of which meet on Tuesday and Thursday. In the event an enrolled student cannot make the morning lecture, she or he could attend one of the afternoon sections. In the event a student in an afternoon section has a conflicting appointment, she or he could attend the morning lecture that same day. Examinations, however, must be completed in the assigned section for which the student is enrolled.

09 - 01	Course Introduction
09 - 03	An Introductory Note Philosophy and the Pursuit of Wisdom Reason and Argument G, R,
09 - 08	Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle Ethics of Virtue G, R,
09 - 10	Ethics of Virtue E,
09 - 15	What is Morality? Philosophy in an Age of Science The Fact/Value Split G, E,
09 - 17	Philosophy and Religion Does Morality Depend On Religion? Thomism G, E,

09 - 22	Subjectivism E,
09 - 24	Subjectivism Homosexuality E, R,
09 - 29	Examination 1
10 - 01	Cultural Relativism E,
10 - 06	Psychological Egoism E,
10 - 08	Starvation, Poverty, War, Peace E, R,
10 - 13	For and Against Ethical Egoism E,
10 - 15	The Utilitarian Approach Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide E, R,
10 - 20	Animals E, R,
10 - 22	The Debate Over Utilitarianism E,
10 - 27	Feminism and The Ethics of Care E, R,
10 - 29	Examination 2

11 - 03	Are There Moral Absolutes? G, E,
11 - 05	Kant and Respect for Persons E,
11 - 10	Assessment Day
11 - 12	The Death Penalty E, R,
11 - 17	Social Contract E,
11 - 19	Social Contract Civil Disobedience E, R,
11 - 24	Race R,
11 - 26	Thanksgiving Holiday
12 - 01	Environment R,
12 - 03	Abortion and Cloning R,
12 - 08	What What a Satisfactory Moral Theory Be Like? E,
12 - 10	Final Thoughts Course Review

Specific Data: This syllabus was completed by Dr. Brian J. Atra on June 9, 2009.