

Introduction to Philosophy 010 G: Ethics

Fall 2016

T/Th 10:05-11:20

Hills 226

Prof. Terence Cuneo

Office: 70 S. Williams 202

Office hrs: M 3-3:45, T/Th 11:30-12:30-11, and by appointment

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I. Texts

Ethics: History, Theory, and Contemporary Issues edited by S. Cahn and P. Markie (4th, 5th, or 6th edn)
Articles on Blackboard (under "course materials")

II. Course Description

I think of philosophy as addressing the issues that naturally arise during a really good late night dorm discussion or family meal. Many of the issues that arise in these discussions are ethical. We want to know: How ought we to live? What it is to live a fulfilled or flourishing life? Does acting morally get in the way of living such a life, since morality is very demanding? And just how demanding is morality? Since one of the best ways to address these questions is to learn what the philosophical giants have to say about them, we will engage a broad range of important figures in the history of ethics such as Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Butler, Kant, and Mill. And since much of the material we'll be considering is fairly theoretical, we'll also be spending some time applying the ideas we encounter to so-called applied moral issues. The applied issues that we'll explore are the moral permissibility of abortion, our obligations to the starving, and the issue of animal rights.

III. Format of the Course

Lecture and discussion

IV. Requirements & Expectations

A. There will be three exams. These exams will be roughly every four weeks and will be weighted equally. They'll compose the entirety of your grade (although see below). You must take all three exams to pass this class.

B. Class participation matters. Do the reading before class. If I find that people aren't completing the readings on time, I reserve the right to administer quizzes. These would count for 10% of your grade.

C. Don't miss class. Missed classes can subtract from your overall grade. Were you to miss two weeks' worth of classes, I reserve the right not to give you a passing grade. Also, see "Requirements and Expectations" handout for how missed classes can affect your grade.

D. Class etiquette matters. See "Requirements and Expectations" handout.

E. I am offering an extra credit option. You may write three additional short papers. I will assign the topics. The first paper is due the day of the first exam. Full credit can add up to five points on that exam. The second paper is due the day of the second exam. Full credit can add up to five points on that exam. And so on.

The grading scale for the course is as follows:

A	94-100%
A-	90-93%
B+	87-89%
B	84-86%
B-	80-83%
C+	77-79%
C	74-76%
C-	70-73%
D+	67-69%
D	60-66%
E	0-59%

YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE CREDIT TOWARDS GRADUATION FOR THIS CLASS if you have already taken or are taking any other 0-level philosophy class except PHIL 013!

The **final exam** is scheduled for 12/14 @ 7:30

V. Reading schedule (this is subject to change)

Unless noted otherwise, the reading assignments are from *Ethics: History, Theory, and Contemporary Issues*, edited by S. Cahn and P. Markie. Page numbers are from the 6th edn.

Block 1: Plato

Republic, (chap. 1) 44-82

Block 2: Plato

Republic, 82-123

Block 3: Aristotle

Nichomachean Ethics, (chap. 2), 124-140; 161-177

Block 4: Abortion

J. J Thomson, (chap. 45)

M. Warren (chap. 46)

Block 5: Abortion

D. Marquis, (chap. 47)

Block 6: Butler

Fifteen Sermons (chap. 8)

Block 7: Kant

Groundwork (chap. 10)

Block 8: Animals

Regan and Cohen (Blackboard)

McGinn "Review of P. Singer" (Blackboard)

Block 9: Animals

McPherson (Blackboard)

Harman (Blackboard)

Block 10: Mill

Utilitarianism (chap. 12)