

PHIL 2310-110: Theory of Ethics

Instructor: Mr. Daniel Adsett
Office: Marquette Hall 414
Office Hours: Tuesday: 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Thursday: 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
By appointment
E-Mail: daniel.adsett@marquette.edu
Class Time: 1:00 PM – 1:50 PM
Location: David Straz Hall 365
Days: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
Dates: January 16th 2018 – May 5th 2018

Required Texts:

Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil* (any edition)

See the *Note on Readings* in the **Schedule** section below for information regarding the locations of other readings

Description:

1. The course is an investigation into the moral dimension of human life. Among the topics to be considered are the norms of morality and the general process of moral decision-making.
2. Traditional sources, such as Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Kant and Mill, and other major figures who have had a major hand in shaping moral philosophy, will be treated.
3. Traditional natural law will be one of the points of view included.
4. One alternative to Western ethics (non-Western or feminist approach) will be included

Knowledge Area Outcomes:

Phil 2310 is one of the two courses in the Human Nature and Ethics knowledge area. The Learning Outcomes of this knowledge area are the following: At the completion of core studies the student will be able to:

1. Assess views of human nature in various philosophical traditions, including classic Greek and Catholic philosophical traditions.
2. Argue for one of the major ethical theories over another in terms of philosophical cogency and practical outcome.
3. Use philosophical reasoning to develop the student's own position on central issues in human nature and ethics, for example, the relation between mind and body, the problem of freedom and determinism, the spiritual and affective dimensions of human life, the extent of human knowledge, the justification of moral judgments, and the elucidation of moral norms.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course,

1. The students will be able to state and provide reasons for the basic positions of the major philosophical theories of Western ethics, including virtue theory, natural law theory, deontology, and consequentialism/utilitarianism. *Means of Assessing: Summaries, Presentation, Final Paper, Final Exam*
2. The student will be able to state and provide reasons for principle objections to major Western ethical theories, including ethical egoism and various forms of moral relativism. *Means of Assessing: Summaries, Presentation, Final Paper, Final Exam*
3. The student will be able to discuss a significant alternative to traditional Western ethics as it relates to Western ethics. *Means of Assessing: Summaries, Presentation, Final Paper, Final Exam*
4. The student will be able to compare and contrast positions of the ethical theories studied in the course. *Means of Assessing: Quizzes, Presentation, Final Paper, Final Exam*
5. The student will be able to take and defend a position in ethics that addresses significant objections to the position. *Means of Assessing: Presentation, Final Paper, Final Exam*

Relation Between Course Objectives and Area Outcomes:

1. Although the five learning objectives of the course are closely interconnected, numbers 4 and 5 above will mostly satisfy the second outcome. By reflecting on how ethics has been conceived and comparing different views, students will be able to argue for one of the major ethical theories over another.
2. In numbers 1 to 3 above students analyze and criticize the basic components of ethical theories and this will satisfy the third outcome: to use philosophical reasoning to develop the student's own position on central issues in ethics.
3. Knowledge Area Outcome 1 does not apply to this course.

Requirements:

Each student will be graded on (1) attendance, (2) twelve quizzes, (3) two summaries, (4) one presentation, (5) one final paper, and (6) one final exam. Beginning **January 26th** students will receive half of a point for each class attended for a total of 19 points. Each individual summary is worth 10 points for a total of 20 points. Although twelve quizzes are listed in the schedule, because each student's two lowest quiz scores will be dropped, each student's ten best quizzes will be worth 5 points each for a total of 50 points. There will be one presentation, to be completed with a partner, worth 30 points, a final paper, graded out of 40, and a final exam, also graded out of 40. Further information regarding the presentations, summaries, and final paper can be found on D2L. For policies concerning missed quizzes, presentations, or a late final paper, see the **Policies for Late Work and Extra Credit** below. In all, each student's final grade will be out of 199:

Attendance:	19
Quizzes:	50
Presentation:	30
Summaries:	20
Final Paper:	40
Final Exam:	40
Total:	199

Grading Scale (Letter Grade/Percentage):

A	95-100	C+	76-78
A-	90-94	C	70-75
B+	87-89	C-	64-69
B	83-86	D+	61-63
B-	79-82	D	58-60
		F	0-57

Policies for Late Work and Extra Credit:

Because assignments will be handed in on D2L, there will be no excuse for late assignments. Presentations missed for unexcused reasons will not be able to be given at an alternative time unless arrangements are made beforehand. Summaries handed in late will lose one point per day late. If the final paper is submitted late, one point will be deducted for every three hours it is late. For example, a final paper submitted at 6:00 pm on April 29th will receive a maximum of 38/40. For work towards bonus marks, students must contact the instructor before or on April 13th.

Important Dates:

Last Day to Withdraw: April 13th

Final Paper Due: 12:00 PM on April 29th

Final Exam: 10:30 AM – 12:30 AM on May 11th

Attendance Policy:

As already outlined in the **Grading** section, beginning on **January 26th**, one half of a point will be given for each class attended for a total of 19 possible points. Presentations missed for unexcused reasons will not be able to be given at an alternative time unless arrangements are made beforehand. Summaries handed in late will lose one point per day late. Arrangements can be made with the instructor concerning any assignments (summaries, presentations, papers) completed late due to (1) severe health reasons (more than a cold, flu, or bodily ache), (2) jury duty, (3) religious obligations, or (4) university sanctioned activities and related travel.

Policy on Electronic Devices:

Students found using cellphones or computers in class, unless a clear reason is given – for translation, a disability, etc. – will be counted absent for the day.

Academic Dishonesty:

The college of Arts and Sciences and department policies on academic dishonesty will be enforced. Students can find the University Honor Code and Academic Integrity Policy here: <http://bulletin.marquette.edu/undergrad/academicregulations/>

Acts of academic misconduct include but are not limited to:

Cheating

1. Copying from others for an assignment and/or during an examination, test or quiz

2. Obtaining, or attempting to obtain, an assignment, examination, test, quiz, or answer key without authorization
3. Using unauthorized electronic devices or materials for an assignment, during an examination, test or quiz
4. Communicating answers or providing unauthorized assistance for an assignment, examination, test or quiz
5. Using unauthorized answers or assistance for an assignment, examination, test or quiz
6. Offering one's own work to another person, or presenting another person's work as one's own
7. Completing an assignment and/or taking an examination, test or quiz for another student, or having someone complete an assignment, take an examination, test or quiz for oneself
8. Tampering with an assignment, examination, test or quiz after it has been graded, and then returning it for additional credit
9. Outsourcing assignments, papers, examinations, tests, quizzes to fellow students or third parties

Plagiarism

1. Using the ideas, creations, or thoughts of another without properly acknowledging the source
2. Paraphrasing or directly quoting a source without credit

Academic Fraud

1. Submitting substantial portions of the same work for credit in more than one course, or from previous institutions, without receiving permission from all instructors involved
2. Using purchased answers or selling answers to assignments, examinations, quizzes or papers

Writing Center:

The OTT Marquette University Writing Center is located in room 240 of the Raynor Memorial Library. It is open between 9 am and 9 pm Mondays to Thursdays, 9 am to 4 pm on Fridays, and 12 pm to 5 pm on Sundays. The satellite location in McCormick Residence Hall is open on Sundays to Thursdays from 7 to 9 pm. Students are strongly encouraged to seek help at the center by either scheduling an appointment or walking in. More information is available at <http://www.marquette.edu/writing-center/>

Disability/Special Needs:

Anyone with a confirmed disability or special need should contact me promptly so that appropriate accommodations, if needed, can be provided. The website for the Office of Disability Services is <http://www.marquette.edu/disability-services/> and the office phone number is 414-288-1645.

Schedule:

Note on Readings:

- Plato's *Republic* can be accessed through *Past Masters*
- Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics (NE)* can be accessed through *Past Masters*
- Thomas Aquinas' *Summa Theologiae (ST)* can be accessed through *Past Masters* or through www.newadvent.org/summa
- Immanuel Kant's *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals (GMM)* can be accessed online through the Raynor Library
- J. S. Mill's *Utilitarianism* can be accessed through *Past Masters*
- Friedrich Nietzsche's *Will to Power* can be accessed through www.archive.org
- The reading from John Rawls' *A Theory of Justice* can be found on ARES
- Martha Nussbaum's "Non-Relative Virtues" can be found on ARES
- Mahatma Gandhi's writings can be found on gandhiserve.org/e/cwmg/cwmg.htm

Dates		Topics	Readings	Presentations	Quizzes	
January	17	Introduction			NA	
	19		<i>Republic</i> 2:358e-2:362d			
	22	Aristotelian Ethics	<i>NE</i> Book I Sections 1-6		Quiz I	
	24		<i>NE</i> Book I Sections 7-8			
	26		<i>NE</i> Book II Sections 1-5	Presentation I		
	29		<i>NE</i> Book II Sections 6-9			
	31		<i>NE</i> Book VIII Sections 2-6		Quiz II	
February	2		<i>NE</i> Book IX Sections 9-12	Presentation II		
	5	Thomistic Natural Law	<i>ST</i> I-II, 93, 2-4 ¹		NA	
	7		<i>ST</i> I-II, 94, 2, 4, 6			
	9		<i>ST</i> I-II, 95, 1-2	Presentation III	Summary I	
	12		<i>ST</i> I-II, 106, 1-2			
	14		<i>ST</i> I-II, 109, 1-3		Quiz III	
	16		<i>ST</i> I-II, 109, 4-5, 7	Presentation IV		
	19	Kantian Deontology	<i>GMM</i> 9-16		Quiz IV	
	21		<i>GMM</i> 16-21			
	23		<i>GMM</i> 22-30	Presentation V		
	26		<i>GMM</i> 30-40			
	28		<i>GMM</i> 40-51		Quiz V	
	March	2	Mill's Utilitarianism	<i>Utilitarianism</i> 1.1-2.5		Quiz VI
		5		<i>Utilitarianism</i> 2.6-2.20		
7		<i>Utilitarianism</i> 2.21-25		Presentation VII		
9						
12		Spring Break				
14						
16						
19		Mill's Utilitarianism Continued	<i>Utilitarianism</i> 3.1-11		Quiz VII	
21			<i>Utilitarianism</i> 4.1-5.10			
23			<i>Utilitarianism</i> 5.11-38	Presentation VIII		
26		Nietzschean Egoism	<i>Will to Power</i> Sections 1-16	Presentation IX	Quiz VIII	
28			<i>Will to Power</i> Sections 17-37	Presentation X		
30		Easter Break				
April	2					
	4	Rawls' Theory of Justice	<i>A Theory of Justice</i> 3-10, 15-19		Summary II	
	6		<i>A Theory of Justice</i> 52-58	Presentation XI	NA	
	9	Nussbaum's Virtue Ethics	"Non-Relative Virtues" 755-760		Quiz IX	
	11		"Non-Relative Virtues" 761-768			
	13		"Non-Relative Virtues" 769-772	Presentation XII		
	16	Gandhi's Ethic of Ahimsa	<i>On Ahimsa</i> Vol 15:251-254		Quiz X	
	18		<i>Non-Violence</i> Vol 24:20-23			
	20		<i>Brahmacharya</i> Vol 28:22-26	Presentation XIII		
	23	Arendt's Theory of Evil	<i>EIJ</i> 21-26		Quiz XI	
	25		<i>EIJ</i> 27-30			
	27		<i>EIJ</i> 31-35	Presentation XIV		
30	<i>EIJ</i> 135-140		Presentation XV			
May	2			<i>EIJ</i> 141-145	Presentation XVI	Quiz XII
	4		<i>EIJ</i> 146-150	Presentation XVII		

¹ Note: Only the bodies of these articles need to be read