

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
PHILOSOPHY 249 Lec 03
“Ethics“
Fall 2008
Lectures: TR, 2:00-3:25 in ST 132

Instructor: Allen Habib
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Office Hours: TR 11:00-12:30 or by appointment

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Office Hours: M 11-12; W 1-2

Required Text:

Cahn and Markie, eds., *Ethics: History, Theory and Contemporary Issues* Oxford University Press, 3rd edition, 2005

Overview:

This is an introductory survey course in ethical theory. We will read selections from the history of Western thought in ethical (moral) theory, from the ancient Greeks to contemporary authors. We will examine traditional answers to the central questions of moral theory: What is the good? What is a good life? What does justice demand? We will also cover the major moral theories in the Western canon: Virtue Theory, the Divine Command/Natural Law, Rational Sentimentalism, Kantianism, and Utilitarianism. The first part of the course is an historical survey of moral theories, beginning with the Ancients and moving up to the 19th Century. In the latter part of the course, we will consider some contemporary ethical debates on several topics, including abortion and animal rights.

Assignments and Dates:

There will be three sorts of assignments: papers, glossaries and a mid-term exam.

- Papers -There will be two short (3-5) page papers due during the course of the semester. The papers will be on assigned topics from the readings.
Due dates: Paper 1 – Tuesday, October 21
 Paper 2 – Tuesday, November 25
- Glossaries – Students will keep a glossary of new philosophical terms they learn in class, along with brief definitions to be written by the student herself.
Glossaries must be turned in at the end of every month.
- Mid-term exam – There will be a mid-term exam, consisting of both short answer and long answer questions.

Mid-term exam will be held on Tuesday November 4

Mark Breakdown:

2 papers – 25% apiece -----50%
3 Glossaries – 5% apiece -----15%
1 Mid Term – 25% -----25%
Participation -----10%

The participation grade will be based on participation in the tutorial sessions. The tutorial instructors will provide you with more detail.

Grading Scheme: I assign letter grades in the following manner –

90-100% = A+ 85-90 = A 80-85 = A-
75-80% = B+ 70-75 = B 65-70 = B-
60-65% = C+ 55-60 = C 50-55 = C-
45-50% = D 0-44% = F

A+ grades appear on the transcript only, and are not reflected in GPA calculations

Late Papers/Assignments:

Late assignments will be considered on a case-by-case basis with the TA instructors or me. If accepted, late assignments may be subject to penalties, although no more than 1/3 of a letter grade per day.

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test;*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVE

The Humanities Representative is Daniel Pagan, MSC 251, humanitiesrep@su.ualgary.ca or 220-3913.