



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 249 Lec 02 – Morality, Virtue and Society

Winter Term 2011

Course Outline

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday, 3:00-4:15pm in EDC 386

Instructor: Walter Glannon
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Office Hours: Tuesday: 1:30-3:30pm

TA: Michelle Pham
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Office Hours: Friday 11:00am-1:00pm

Course Description

This is an introductory course in ethical (moral) theory. Motivated by Socrates' general question, "How should one live?" through the assigned readings we will address more specific questions such as: How do we define 'right' and 'wrong,' or 'good' and 'bad'? Which actions should we perform? Why should we be moral? What is a good life? In addressing these questions, we will examine the major moral theories in Western Philosophy, including Divine Command Theory, Ethical Egoism, Virtue Ethics, Deontology (Kantianism), consequentialism (utilitarianism), and communitarian ethics. We will test these theories and associated principles through examples and some hypothetical and actual moral dilemmas, analyzing their comparative strengths and weaknesses and their role in justifying actions.

Required Texts

- *Ethics: History, Theory, and Contemporary Issues*, Cahn and Markie, eds. Oxford University Press, fourth edition, 2009 (C&M)
- *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, James Rachels and Stuart Rachels, sixth edition, McGraw-Hill (R&R)

Evaluation

One in-class quiz, January 26:	10%
Two 5-page papers:	
First paper due in class February 16:	35%
Second paper due in class March 16:	35%
Take-home exam, due in class April 13:	20%

There will be no Registrar-scheduled final exam.

Grading Method

A+ 98-100	B+ 86-89	C+ 74-77	D+ 62-65
A 94-97	B 82-85	C 70-73	D 58-61
A- 90-93	B- 78-81	C- 66-69	F 0-57

Late Submission of Papers

Papers submitted later than the due date will lose one-half letter grade for each day beyond that date. Students with medical or other extenuating reasons for not submitting a paper on the due date will not be penalized, provided that they inform the instructor and provide him with documentation confirming the special circumstances.

Schedule

January 10, 12: Introduction: History and Ethical Theories

January 17, 19: R&R, Chapter 1: What Is Morality, 1-13; C&M, Plato, *Euthyphro*, *Defense of Socrates*, *Crito*, 5-42.

January 24, 26: C&M, *Republic* Books I and II, 44-78, Books IV, VII and IX, 82-123. **Quiz January 26.**

January 31, February 2: R&R, Chapter 12: The Ethics of Virtue, 158-172. C&M, Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* 124-140, 147-157, 169-177.

February 7, 9: R&R, Chapter 4: Does Morality Depend on Religion?, 48-61. C&M, Aquinas, *Summa Contra Gentiles* 202-207, 211-215.

February 14, 16: R&R, Chapter 6: The Idea of a Social Contract, 80-96, C&M, Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 216-227. "The Prisoner's Dilemma," from Richard Dawkins, *The Selfish Gene*. **First Paper due February 16.**

February 21, 23: Reading Week

February 28, March 2: C&M, David Hume, *Treatise of Human Nature*, 243-254, *Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*, 275-279. C&M, Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, 280-305, 311-316, R&R, Chapter 10: Kant and Respect for Persons, 136-145. (See also Foot, in C&M, 556-561)

March 7, 9: R&R, Chapter 8: The Debate over Utilitarianism, 109-123, C&M, Jeremy Bentham, *Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*, 319-327, John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*, 327-345.

March 14, 16: C&M, Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, 363-382, R&R, Chapter 13: What Would a Satisfactory Moral Theory Be Like?, 173-183. **Second Paper due March 16.**

March 21, 23: C&M, Albert Camus, *The Myth of Sisyphus*, 397-405, Jean-Paul Sartre, *Existentialism Is a Humanism*, 406-412.

March 28, 30: C&M, W. D. Ross, *The Right and the Good*, 439-448, J. L. Mackie, *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong*, 504-514, R&R, Chapter 2: The Challenge of Cultural Relativism, 14-31.

April 4, 6: C&M, Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality," 821-828, John Arthur, "Famine Relief and the Ideal Moral Code," 829-839, R&R, Chapter 5: Ethical Egoism, 62-79.

April 11, 13: C&M, John Taurek, "Should the Numbers Count?" 888-900, Derek Parfit, "Innumerate Ethics," 901-908, Judith Jarvis Thomson, "The Trolley Problem," 910-922.

Take-Home Exam due April 13.

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 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, 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 REPRESENTATIVES

The Faculty of Arts Representatives are Laura Golebiowski (arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), Bhuvana Sankaranarayanan (arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), Lara Schmitz (arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), and Vincent St. Pierre (arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial FOIP Act in all aspects of its operations as a publicly funded institution. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor unless other arrangements have been made in writing and filed with the Department Administrator.

SAFEWALK: PROMOTING CAMPUS SAFETY AND AWARENESS

Twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, Safewalk volunteers walk people safely to their destination on campus. This service is free and available to students, staff, and campus visitors. Safewalks are done in male/female pairs. The volunteers walk anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). To request a Safewalk volunteer to walk with you, call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year) or use one of the Help Phones located across campus (they are not just for emergencies).