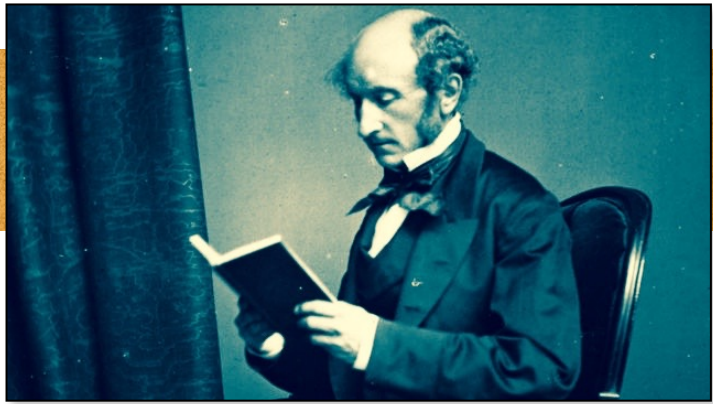


PHIL 337 Ethics: Theory and Practice

Spring 2020

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Office Hours: Wednesdays
2:00 - 3:00
and by appointment



Course Description

In this course we will work to understand four ethical traditions in Western philosophy: utilitarianism, Kantian ethics, contractarianism and virtue ethics. We will begin with a classic text in each tradition and move through contemporary attempts to critique, develop and apply these four conceptions of ethics. We will consider the problems that motivate the accounts and the reasoning that supports them. Just as importantly, we will put all of them to the test of practical application. Among the applied topics we will grapple with are aiding people in need, the treatment of non-human animals, selling and donating organs, abortion, assisted suicide, gene editing, fair trade, the consumer lifestyle and our impact on the environment. Throughout, we will be asking whether any of these approaches to ethics helps us to understand what makes an action right or wrong or helps us to answer the pressing questions of what kind of people we should be and how we ought to live our lives together.

Texts

The four fundamental texts for the course are all classic works available in many different editions. All page references made to these works in class will be to the editions listed here and available in the UVic Bookstore.

Aristotle *Nicomachean Ethics* Translated by Joe Sachs. Hackett Publishing. 2002.

Thomas Hobbes *Leviathan* Edited by Edwin Curley. Hackett Publishing. 1994.

Immanuel Kant *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals* Edited by Lara Denis. Broadview Press. 2005.

John Stuart Mill *Utilitarianism* Second Edition. Edited by George Sher. Hackett Publishing. 2002.

All the other course readings will be available on-line through the CourseSpaces page.

CourseSpaces

To access the course materials on CourseSpaces go to coursespaces.uvic.ca and log in with your regular network ID. If you have difficulty accessing CourseSpaces or if a link to a particular reading is malfunctioning, please let me know by email right away so that I can take care of the problem.

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The CourseSpaces page contains all sorts of information you will need for the course. It's where you will find many of the course readings along with, instructions for the quote and comment assignments and the essay assignment, a class list with email links and your grades.

Please add a photo of yourself to your CourseSpaces profile.

Any changes that need to be made to the course schedule during the term will appear on the CourseSpaces page.

Course Work

Exam One	25%	5 Quote & Comments	10%
Exam Two Part A—in class	15%	Essay (approx. 2200 words)	30%
Part B—take home	20%		

For dates see the schedule below.

Exam One and Exam Two, Part A will be in-class exams covering material from the readings and class discussion. Exam One will include both short answer questions and essay questions. Exam Two, Part A will be only short answer questions. Exam Two, Part B will be a take-home essay exam covering material from the entire course but focusing on material covered after Exam One.

Information about the essay assignment and the quote and comment assignments, including detailed instructions and late policies, can be found on the CourseSpaces page.

Missed Exams

If you miss an exam due to an illness or exceptional circumstance contact me immediately to schedule a make-up.

Missed Classes

If you miss class you should contact another student in the class to find out what you missed. Student email links are available in the Participants section of the CourseSpaces page.

Academic Integrity

The University Policy on Academic Integrity (covering plagiarism, multiple submission, unauthorized use of an editor, falsifying materials, cheating and aiding others to cheat) will be enforced in this course. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the policy. You can find it online in the UVIC Calendar at <https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2020-01/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html>.

If you have any doubts about what this policy requires or any questions about whether or not you are complying with it, please don't hesitate to ask me about it.

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Grading

Grades for the course will be assigned using the UVIC Undergraduate Grading Scale:

Percentage	Grade
90 - 100	A+
85 - 89	A
80 - 84	A-
77 - 79	B+
73 - 76	B
70 - 72	B-
65 - 69	C+
60 - 64	C
50 - 59	D
Below 50	N or F

A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically **superior**, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations.

B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates **good** comprehension of the course material, good command of the skills needed to work with it, and full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B+ represents a more complex understanding and/or application.

C+ or C is earned by work that indicates an **adequate** comprehension of the course material and the skills needed to work with the course material and that indicates the student has met the basic requirements for completing assigned work and/or participating in class activities.

D is earned by work that indicates **minimal** command of the course materials and/or minimal participation in class activities that is worthy of course credit toward the degree.

N indicates that the course requirements were not completed.

Course Schedule

Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class and posted on Coursespaces.

All readings not in the four texts listed above can be found through the Coursespaces page.

Q/C indicates that a quote and comment assignment is due in class that day.

January 7	Introduction
January 8	Griffin "Utilitarian accounts: state of mind or state of the world"
January 10	Mill <i>Utilitarianism</i> , Chapters I and II
January 14	Mill <i>Utilitarianism</i> , Chapters III and IV
January 15 Q/C	Norcross "Comparing Harms: Headaches and Human Lives"
January 17	Williams from <i>Utilitarianism: For and Against</i>
January 21	Mill <i>Utilitarianism</i> , Chapter V
January 22 Q/C	Walton "Consequentialism, Indirect Effects and Fair Trade"
January 24	Morgan-Knapp & Goodman "Consequentialism, Climate Harm and Individual Obligations"
January 28	Aristotle <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book I
January 29	Aristotle <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book II
January 31	Aristotle <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book III
February 4 Q/C	Gambrel and Cafaro "The Virtue of Simplicity"

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Course Schedule *continued*

February 5 Aristotle *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book VI, Ch. 5 — Book VII, Ch. 10

February 7, 11 Hursthouse "Virtue Theory and Abortion"

February 12 Driver "Virtue Theory"

February 14 EXAM ONE

Reading Break — February 17 through February 21

February 25 Hobbes *Leviathan*, Part I, Chapter XIII

February 26 Hobbes *Leviathan*, Part I, Chapters XIV and XV

February 28 **Q/C** Murray "Genetic Meddling and Organ Sales"

March 3 Dimock "Why All Feminists Should Be Contractarians"

March 4, 6 Kant *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*, First Section

March 10 Kant *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Second Section

March 11 **Q/C** Gunderson "A Kantian View of Suicide and End of Life Treatment"

March 13 Williams "The Social Creation of Morality and Complicity in Collective Harms: A Kantian Account"

March 17 Skidmore "Duties to Animals: The Failure of Kant's Moral Theory"

March 18 Foot "The Problem of Abortion and the Doctrine of the Double Effect"

March 20 Thomson "The Trolley Problem"

March 24, 25 Rowlands "Contractarianism and Animal Rights"

March 25 ESSAY DUE at 12:30

March 27, 31 Temkin "Thinking about the Needy, Justice, and International Organizations"

April 1 Wrap-up and Course Experience Survey

April 3 EXAM TWO — PART A in class

April 9 at 5 p.m. EXAM TWO — PART B take home