

PHIL 337 A01

January-April 2017
TWF: 1:30am – 2:20pm

Ethics: Theory and Practice

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Office Hours: Wednesday 2:30pm – 4:30pm

Course Description:

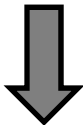
This course is an introduction to normative ethical theory and the respective strengths of competing ethical theories when they are put into practice. We will look at the four most prominent traditions in contemporary analytic philosophy: Utilitarianism, Social Contract Theory, Kantian Ethics and Virtue Ethics. In each case, we will study a major historical source of the tradition (i.e. J.S. Mill, Hobbes, Kant and Aristotle). We will then examine current articulations of the tradition as it is represented in the contemporary literature. By comparing the traditions and their practical applications to modern ethical issues, students should be able to develop a detailed understanding of how each of these traditions applies to difficult cases in practical ethics.

Course Website: Online course materials will be available via Uvic *CourseSpaces*.

Texts: *Utilitarianism* by J.S. Mill
Leviathan by Thomas Hobbes
Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals by Immanuel Kant
Nicomachean Ethics by Aristotle
Selected Readings available via *CourseSpaces*

Note: If you can find used copies of alternate editions of the textbooks, you may do so in order to save money. However, this may not be worth the effort given that the editions I have chosen are quite reasonably-priced.

Requirements: Midterm Test (20%)
Quote & Comment Assignments (10%)
Term Paper (30%)
Final Exam (40%)



Note: Writing assignment due dates and midterm test dates are posted below in the weekly schedule. *You are responsible for knowing these dates.* Plan ahead, and manage your overall personal workload accordingly.

Grading System

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point	Grade Definition
90 – 100	A+	9	An 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. Normally achieved by a minority of students.
85 – 89	A	8	
80 – 84	A-	7	
77 – 79	B+	6	A B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates a good comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student's full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B+ represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material. Normally achieved by the largest number of students.
73 – 76	B	5	
70 – 72	B-	4	
65 – 69	C+	3	A 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.
60 – 64	C	2	
50 – 59	D	1	A 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.
0 – 49	F	0	F is earned by work, which after the completion of course requirements, is inadequate and unworthy of course credit towards the degree.

Interpretation of these grade definitions is up to the discretion of the instructor. If you receive a grade during the course that you believe is unfair, please begin by discussing the matter with the instructor (or TA) in a respectful, open-minded manner. Rest assured that if you still believe the grade you received is unfair you can appeal the matter to the chair of the department.

For additional information regarding undergraduate grades, please consult the following link: <https://www.woodcock.edu/academics/undergraduate/grades>

Policy on Late Assignments: Late assignments will be accepted for five working days after the posted due date; however, late assignments will not receive written comments. After five working days documentation is required demonstrating illness or family emergency. Note that Q&C assignments are not accepted after the final day of class.

Plagiarism: Review the University Policy on Academic Integrity (pp. 55-58) *carefully*, and be aware that anti-plagiarism software may be used in this course.

Counseling Services: Many, if not most, students experience some difficulties with their mental health during their years as undergraduate students. Make sure you are familiar with Uvic *Counseling Services*, which is an excellent resource you have at your disposal on campus. It is hard to shake the stigma associated with problems like depression and anxiety, but if at any point you can benefit from help with mental health issues, please contact *Counseling Services*. They genuinely want to help, and why not take advantage of this superb resource?

Important Dates: Please consult the Uvic 2016-2017 *Academic Year Important Dates* for information about last possible dates to withdraw from courses without penalty, etc.

Technology in Classroom: Some students require laptops or voice recognition apps for their learning strategies, so I do not prohibit their use in the classroom. However, studies show that multi-tasking reduces

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2. I obviously believe this thread of philosophical thought is worth studying, but I also encourage students to take courses at Uvic that explore alternative perspectives. For example, courses in *Indigenous Studies* (IS 200A; Indigenous Studies Foundations) and *Gender Studies* (GNDR 330; Feminist Thought, Past and Present) would nicely complement our study of normative ethics in Western philosophy.
3. The fact that there are so few women and persons of colour on our reading list is 3

Jan. 17 Andrew Walton: *Consequentialism, Indirect Effects and Fair Trade*

Jan. 18 John Stuart Mill: *Utilitarianism*

Jan. 20

