

## **PHILOSOPHY 335 - Moral Philosophy Fall 2021**

**Class meets:** Thursday 11:30 am-12:50 am Cornett A129

**Instructor:** Prof. Colin Macleod (pronouns: he & him)

**Office:** CLE B328

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**Office Hours:** Monday 1:30 pm –3:30 pm and by appointment (via zoom)

### **Texts**

There are no required texts that you must purchase for the course. All the readings will be available via web resources, the University Library or Brightspace. However, it may be useful for you to acquire a copy of Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*.

There are many editions available of this text and the text can be accessed via the web but the edition edited and translated by Allen W. Wood (Yale University Press 2002) has some valuable interpretative essays in it. You may also want to acquire an edition of Thomas Hobbes' *Leviathan* and Henry Sidgwick's *The Methods of Ethics*.

### **Additional Resources**

(available online via UVIC library)

<http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html>

<http://www.laits.utexas.edu/poltheory/cuws/>

<http://www.utilitarianism.com/index.htm>

### **Course Outline/Course Objective**

This course explores some of the most important and influential theories about the nature of morality that have been developed in the tradition of Western philosophy. Towards this end, we will study excerpts from some of the classic texts of Hobbes, Kant and Sidgwick as well as some work in moral theory by a variety of contemporary philosophers. The objective of the course is to provide students with a sound understanding of the main problems in normative ethics and the different moral theories that have been developed in response to them. We devote special attention to the following broad theories: consequentialism (especially utilitarianism), Hobbesian contractarianism, contractualism, and Kantian theory. Although the course examines some classic texts in the history of philosophy, we will approach the material with an emphasis on the relevance of the material studied to theories and debates in contemporary moral philosophy.

### **About Colin Macleod**



**Brightspace**



Allen Wood 'Relativism' (BS)

James Sterba, 'Understanding Evil: American Slavery, the Holocaust, and the Conquest of the American Indians', *Er* Vol. 106, No. 2 (Jan., 1996), pp. 424-448 (available online via UVIC library)

**Week of September 13 – The Right and the Good: Considering the Relation Between**

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**Week of September 27 – Decolonization, Reconciliation and Morality**



online via UVIC Library).

Thaddeus Metz, 'Toward an African Moral Theory', *Journal of African Philosophy*, 15, 3 2007: 321-41. (Available online via UVIC library.)

Supplementary Readings:

Symposium on Metz's 'Toward an African Moral Theory' in *South African Journal of Philosophy*, vol 26, No 4. 2007. (Available online via UVIC Library).

**Week of December 6 - REVIEW**

### **Quote and Comment Assignment Instructions**

Over the course of the term, you may complete as many as 10 quote and comment assignments. However, you may only submit **ONE** quote and comment in any given week of term. In order to receive marks for the quote, comment, and critique assignment you must submit your assignment to the Brightspace page during the week that reading is on the outline. **You must also attend the class at which the reading is discussed.**



## **Guide To Marginal Notations (used in marking papers)**

? = the significance or relevance of a point is unclear or obscure

^ = missing word(s)

BX = be more explicit; develop the point you are making more fully

C = confusing passage;

CIT = incomplete or incorrect or missing citation

G = garbled; you have not effectively conveyed your point

I = incomplete analysis; you have not adequately explained your point

K = awkward or ungrammatical sentence construction

M = misleading

NA = needs argument; you have not developed your argument sufficiently

O = omit; you could have omitted this chunk of text

QL = quoted passage is unnecessarily long

RF = ambiguous or unclear referent

RS = run on sentence

SE = supporting evidence is needed to substantiate a claim

U = sentence or phrase does not clearly communicate your point

VA = vague

W = poor or incorrect choice of word