

Philosophy 222: Ethics

Course objectives

This course aims for students to be able to:

1. Articulate an overview of fundamental topics and positions in ethics
2. Engage in reasoned, charitable, and detailed philosophical discourse
3. Become familiar with some methodologies of philosophy
4. Demonstrate improved philosophical writing in papers of increasing length throughout the semester
5. Devise competent critiques of selected philosophers' positions.

Required texts

The following texts are required for the course and are available at the bookstore:

Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*.

Kant, Immanuel. *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*.

Mill, John Stuart. *Utilitarianism*.

Schedule of Reading and Assignments

January 25	Introduction
January 27	Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality"
January 29	Thomson, "Killing, Letting Die, and the Trolley Problem" Lin, "The Ethics of Autonomous Cars"
February 1	Regan, "Utilitarianism, Vegetarianism, and Animal Rights"
February 3	Nagel, "Moral Luck"
February 5	Rachels, "The Challenge of Cultural Relativism" Rachels, "Subjectivism in Ethics"
February 8	Kant, <i>Groundwork</i> , Preface and First Section, pp. 1–17
February 10	First 2-page paper due Korsgaard, "Kant's Formula of Universal Law"
February 12	Kant, "On a Supposed Right to Lie," pp. 63–67
February 15	Kant, <i>Groundwork</i> , Second Section, pp. 19–48
February 17	Kant, <i>Groundwork</i> , Third Section, pp. 49–62

February 19	Bentham, “Of the Principle of Utility” Nozick, “The Experience Machine”
February 22	Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> , Chapters 1–2, pp. 1–26
February 24	Second 2-page paper due Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> , Chapters 3–4, pp. 26–40
February 26	Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> , Chapter 5, pp. 41–63 Mill, “1868 Speech on Capital Punishment,” pp. 65–71
February 29	Harris, “The Survival Lottery”
March 2	Smart, “Extreme and Restricted Utilitarianism” Williams, “A Critique of Utilitarianism”
March 4	No class
March 7	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Books I, II, pp. 1–30
March 9	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Books III, IV, pp. 30–67
March 11	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Books V, VI, pp. 67–99
Spring Break	
March 21	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Books VII, VIII, pp. 99–137
March 23	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Books IX, X, pp. 137–171
March 25	Hursthouse, “Normative Virtue Ethics” Wolf, “Moral Saints”
March 28	5-page paper due Nagel, “Death”
March 30	Wolf, “The Meanings of Lives”
April 1	Parfit, “What Makes Someone’s Life Go Best?”
April 4	Scheffler, from <i>Death and the Afterlife</i>
April 6	Parfit, “The Non-Identity Problem”
April 8	Weinberg, “Is it Always Wrong to Have Children?”

- April 11 Marquis, "Why Abortion is Immoral"
Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion"
Warren, "The Moral and Legal Status of Abortion"
- April 13 Singer, "All Animals are Equal"
- April 15 Anderson, "Animal Rights and the Values of Nonhuman Life"
- April 18 Parfit, "The Repugnant Conclusion"
Feinberg, "The Rights of Animals and Unborn Generations"
- April 20 Rachels, "Active vs. Passive Euthanasia"
Velleman, "A Right of Self-Termination?"
- April 22 O'Neill, "The Moral Perplexities of Famine Relief"
- April 25 Cullity, "Asking Too Much"
- April 27 **7-page paper due**
Murphy, "The Demands of Beneficence"
- April 29 **Last Day of Class**
Narveson, "Is World Poverty a Moral Problem for the Wealthy?"