

INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS  
PHILOSOPHY 2200 FALL 2007

Lecture Meeting: 12:30-1:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Peabody, 115, Call #06-120

Discussion sections: 12:20-1:10 p.m. Fridays Call #06-120  
1:25-2:15p.m. Fridays, Call # 16-121  
3:35-4:25 p.m. Mondays, Call # 36-122  
4:40-5:30 p.m. Mondays, Call # 56-123

Instructor: Dr. Cecilia Herles

Office: Peabody Hall, Room 22

Office hours: By appointment

Phone number: (706) 542-2823

E-mail: [cherles@uga.edu](mailto:cherles@uga.edu) (This is usually the best way to contact me)

Website: <http://cherles.myweb.uga.edu/>

Teaching Assistant for discussion sections: Taylor Stone

E-mail: [catguy50@gmail.com](mailto:catguy50@gmail.com) (google talk and Skype: catguy50)

Office hours: 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Monday and Friday

Office: Peabody Hall, Room 126.

**Required Texts:**

Kant, Immanuel. Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals. Trans. and Ed. H. J. Paton. New York: Harper and Row, 1956.

Mill, John Stuart. Utilitarianism and other writings. Ed. Mary Warnock. New York: Penguin, 1962

Nietzsche, Friedrich. On the Genealogy of Morals and Ecce Homo. Trans. Walter Kaufmann and R.J. Hollingdale. New York: Random, 1967.

\*\*\* In addition, I will assign articles that are from a course packet. You must purchase the course packet from Bel Jean copy shop. Bel Jean Copy Shop is located at 163 Broad St. Their phone number is 706-548-3648.

**Course Objectives:**

This is an introductory philosophy course designed to provide a broad survey of some of the most influential ethical theories, including deontological, teleological and feminist theories. Students will be expected to identify and become familiar with arguments presented for these views. Students will also be expected to think critically about these positions and to reflect upon ways in which these theories relate to the evaluation of contemporary issues.

**Course Structure:**

This course will utilize a variety of learning methods, including lecture, discussion, and debates. Active participation, including analytical reading of the material in this course, is required, and students are expected to remain actively engaged in the material throughout the course.

**Class behavior:**

(My apologies to those of you who are aware of this)

A mature and appropriate participation during all class meetings is expected from all students. Disruptive or otherwise disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. Students may be asked to leave the room at the instructor's discretion. This policy is not meant to stifle honest academic discussion. Unacceptable behavior includes (but is not limited to): reading newspapers or concentrating on non-course related material, engaging in side-conversations, cell phone ringing, etc.

**Assignments and Requirements:**

Students are required to complete the assigned readings before class. The instructor reserves the right to give unannounced quizzes during lecture or discussion sections that will be weighed into the class participation grade.

**Class Attendance: Attendance will be taken in every lecture and discussion section. More than five absences may result in the lowering of a student's grade by one letter.** The instructor also reserves the right, at her discretion, to withdraw administratively any student who accumulates more than five absences at any point during the semester. If it is before the midpoint of the semester, the student will receive a W. If it is after the midpoint, the student will receive a WF, except in cases of hardship. In cases of hardship, the student must make necessary arrangements through the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

**Debates:**

**Participation in one debate is required for a passing grade in this course.** Debates will be held in the Monday discussion sections on November 19th and December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Debates will be held in the Friday discussion sections on November 16th and November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Written work:**

There will be one quiz (and this quiz is optional), three in-class essay exams, and one final exam. Students will be required to purchase 5 blue books for the quiz and exams, and they must be handed into the instructor by the third week of classes. The quiz will be optional. If the quiz is handed in to the instructor, it automatically counts towards your overall grade. All written work must be taken in class during the arranged time. Makeup examinations will not be scheduled unless the student is able to provide compelling, verifiable reasons why I should allow one.

Written work will be evaluated on an A-F plus/minus grading scale. The students who will be evaluated most highly:

- 1) Demonstrate that they can fully answer the exam questions by articulating and clearly explaining the relevant arguments given in the class readings.
- 2) Demonstrate that they can critically evaluate arguments given in the class readings.

In accordance with the University policy, the students will be graded according to this plus/minus scale:

100-94= A    89-86= B+    82-80 =B-    75-73 =C    69-60= D  
90-93=A-    85-83= B    79-76 =C+    72-70 =C-    59 and below= F

**Class participation:**

Students will be expected to actively participate in the discussion sections. Participation will be evaluated on an A-F plus/minus grading scale. The students who will be evaluated most highly:

- 1) Demonstrate that they have read and thought about the material assigned for the class, and they can develop questions or topics for discussion.
- 2) Demonstrate that they listen to their peers and build upon their ideas.
- 3) Demonstrate that they can articulate and critically evaluate the concepts discussed in the readings and lectures.

Students requiring special accommodations for learning should share these concerns with me as soon as possible, and no later than the third week of classes.

**Total Weight of Assignments:**

Quiz (optional): 10%  
Three in-class exams (each 20%): 60%  
Final exam: 20% (30% if you did not hand in the quiz)  
Class participation: 10%

Week One

Thursday, 8/16: Syllabus review and introductions

Discussion sections: Introductions (Friday 8/17)

Week Two

Tuesday, 8/21: Ruth Benedict and James Rachels on relativism (course packet)

Thursday, 8/23: The Republic, Book II (course packet)

Discussion sections: Introductions (M, 8/20) Discuss relativism and Plato (F, 8/24)

Week Three

Tuesday, 8/28: The Republic, Books IV-V (course packet). Must hand in 5 blue books with your name on them.

Thursday, 8/30: Jeremy Bentham's chapters 1 and 4 in Mill's book, Utilitarianism, p. 17-22 and p. 41-43.

Discussion sections: Discuss relativism, Plato (M, 8/27) and Bentham (F, 8/31)

Week Four

Monday, 9/3: No discussion section

Tuesday, 9/4: J.S. Mill, Utilitarianism, chapter 1 and beginning of chapter 2, p. 181-190 (to number 12).

Thursday, 9/6: J.S. Mill, Utilitarianism, finish chapter 2, p. 190-202.

Discussion sections: (**No discussion sections on Monday 9/3**) Discuss Mill (F, 9/7)

Week Five

Tuesday, 9/11: J.S. Mill, Utilitarianism, chapter 4, p. 210-215.

Thursday, 9/13: Review

Discussion sections: Discuss Mill and sign up for debates (M, 9/10 and F, 9/14)

Week Six

Tuesday, 9/18: **EXAM ONE**

Thursday, 9/20: Immanuel Kant, Groundwork, p. 61-64  
Discussion sections: Discuss Mill (M, 9/17) and Kant (F, 9/21)

Week Seven

Tuesday, 9/25: Immanuel Kant, Groundwork, p. 64-71.  
Thursday, 9/27: Immanuel Kant, Groundwork, p. 80-88.  
Discussion sections: Discuss Kant (M, 9/24, and F, 9/28)

Week Eight

Tuesday, 10/2: Immanuel Kant, Groundwork, p. 89-92, 95-98.  
Thursday, 10/4: Review  
Discussion sections: Discuss Kant (M, 10/1, and F, 10/5)

Week Nine

Tuesday, 10/9: (Midpoint). **EXAM TWO**  
Thursday, 10/11: Friedrich Nietzsche, On the Genealogy, Preface, p. 15-23  
Friday, 10/12: (Midpoint Withdrawal Deadline)  
Discussion sections: Discuss Kant (M, 10/8) and Nietzsche (F, 10/12)

Week Ten

Tuesday, 10/16: Friedrich Nietzsche, On the Genealogy, Essay I, p. 24-39.  
Thursday, 10/18: Friedrich Nietzsche, On the Genealogy, Essay I, p. 39-56.  
Discussion sections: Discuss Nietzsche (M, 10/15, and F, 10/19)

Week Eleven

Tuesday, 10/23: **QUIZ** (it is optional and if it is handed in, it automatically counts)  
Thursday, 10.25- Friday 10/26: No classes. Fall Break ☺  
Discussion sections: Discuss Nietzsche (Monday, 10/22), (**No discussion sections on Friday, 10/26**)

Week Twelve

Tuesday, 10/30: Friedrich Nietzsche, On the Genealogy, Essay II, p. 57-69.  
Thursday, 11/1: Friedrich Nietzsche, On the Genealogy, Essay II, p. 70-85.  
Discussion sections: Discuss Nietzsche (M, 10/29, and F, 11/2)

Week Thirteen

Tuesday, 11/6: Friedrich, Nietzsche, On the Genealogy, Essay II, p. 86-96.  
Thursday, 11/8: Review  
Discussion sections: Discuss Nietzsche (M, 11/5, and F, 11/9)

Week Fourteen

Tuesday, 11/13: **EXAM THREE**  
Thursday, 11/15: Readings for debates  
Discussion sections: Discuss Nietzsche (M, 11/12) and **DEBATE ONE (Friday, 11/16)**

Week Fifteen

Tuesday, 11/20: Readings for debates  
Wednesday, 11/21-Friday 11/23: No classes. Thanksgiving break ☺  
Discussion sections: **DEBATE ONE (Monday, 11/19)**, (**No discussion sections on Friday, 11/23**)

Week Sixteen

Tuesday, 11/27: Simone de Beauvoir on the Second Sex (course packet)  
Thursday, 11/29: Elizabeth Spelman on Simone de Beauvoir (course packet).  
Discussion sections: TBA (Monday, 11/26) **DEBATE TWO Friday, 11/30**

Week Seventeen

Tuesday, 12/4: (Class operating on a Friday class schedule) Review for final exam.

Thursday, 12/6: Last day of class.

Friday, 12/7: Reading day. No classes

Discussion sections: **DEBATE TWO (Monday, 12/3) (No discussion sections on Friday)**

Final exam is scheduled for Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 12p.m.-3 p.m.

\*\*\* Please note that this syllabus is only a general outline and it may be subject to revisions.