

DePetro, Fall 2017
Office: 3542 Coleman Hall
Messages 581-3012 – Department of Philosophy
Office Hours: M: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. T/R: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
and by appointment
email: jmdepetro@eiu.edu
Do not try to email me through d21

Philosophy 2500G - Introduction to Ethics Course Syllabus

Catalog Description: PHI 2500G – The Good Life: An Introduction to Ethics

(3-0-3) On Demand. This course offers a critical examination of a variety of contemporary issues such as abortion, euthanasia, animal welfare and capital punishment. Ethical theories such as Utilitarianism, Kantianism, Relativism, Egoism and Natural Law are also examined. H4900

Prerequisites & Notes:

None

Credits: 3

Course Materials: Texts: Doing Ethics, Moral Reasoning and Contemporary Issues 3rd ed., Lewis Vaughn, ed., W.W. Norton & Co. Inc., 2012. **The Elements of Moral Philosophy**, 7th ed., S. Rachels, McGraw-Hill, Inc., New York, 2015. **Eating Animals**, Jonathan Safran Foer, Back Bay Books 2010.

Course Objectives: The goal of this course is to foster recognition of the complexities of moral decision-making and to assist students in making reasoned, ethical choices. This is achieved by providing students with a critical examination of some of the leading theories proposed by philosophers and then considering those views in light of solving concrete moral problems.

Making decisions we believe to be right and principled is part of leading a satisfying and fulfilling life; a good life. At this point in our lives, we have already made some decisions both about the determination of right action and about the formulation of our own moral character. This course asks us to reflect on those decisions, to understand them, and evaluate them in light of the insight and wisdom of others. To do this, we will acquaint ourselves with a variety of ethical theories and then introduce contemporary moral problems, such as abortion, capital punishment, animal welfare and euthanasia. We will work with both theory and practice, learning not only **what** various people think about certain issues, but the principles behind their positions. We will learn to critically evaluate what we read. After clarification and reflection, we will be better able to understand and evaluate our own instinctive philosophical beliefs. This in turn will help us develop our own ethical standards in a way that withstands conflict and criticism. Thus, to fulfill our main objective in this course we seek the best methods and principles for helping us independently determine what we ought to do, and what kind of person one ought to be.

Course Objectives as stated on the course proposal:

Identify and distinguish major moral theories

Analyze and evaluate major moral theories

Identify major contemporary and historical figures in ethical theories

Analyze and evaluate arguments concerning contemporary moral problems

Develop responsible citizenship through a consideration of the implications of ethical arguments from various multicultural, gender, racial, and class perspectives

Requirements: There will be two exams worth 100 points each and a final exam worth 150 points. In addition, there will be some combination of written homework assignments, unannounced quizzes, and papers worth a total of 150 points. You will receive more complete instructions for these assignments. All assignments must be typed. All work turned in must include the student name, E-number and date. Please note that all assignments must be done on time and handed over in class; **I do not accept assignments sent email. Be sure to print assignments off well in advance as printer failure does not constitute a legitimate reason for a late or missing assignment. I do not accept assignments turned in under my door or in my mailbox.** Students are expected to do the readings in advance and participate in class discussion. **A community service project is also required.** (Details are below.)

Grading: The total possible course points is 500. 450-500 earns an A, 400-449 earns a B, 350-399 earns a C, 300-349 earns a D, and below 300 is failing. Borderline cases will be decided by class participation and attendance.

Make-up Policy: Missed quizzes, homework, or exams may be made up only in the event of an emergency. If you have a legitimate emergency, bring me documentation. **The fact that your ride is leaving early for Thanksgiving Break does not constitute an emergency.** Failure of your computer or printer does not constitute an emergency. If you are sick, I need something from Health Services or a medical professional with a date and time on it.

Community Service Project: Every student is **required** to perform some sort of community service activity and bring documentation of the service to the instructor by November 30th. (I will provide a form for you.) This activity might include donating blood, volunteering time at various charity organizations, visiting shut-ins, delivering meals to the elderly, or other community service projects. Your project may **not** include services performed as a member of some church or organization. You must perform your service independently of any organization or group you belong to. For example, you may not count fraternity events or activities you do as a member of your church. University service is also excluded. **You must perform the service for someone you do not already know.** If you do not complete the community service requirement, you have not completed the course

requirements. There are no points awarded for community service.

Classroom Demeanor: Discussion and debate are very much a part of a good philosophy course. We must feel free to express ourselves on controversial issues and to explore the many, not just two, sides to complicated moral problems. We must not assume, in this class, that the ideas being expressed are those endorsed by the speaker. This way, we can all feel free to explore, criticize and construct our arguments without fear of disapproval by our teachers or colleagues. I expect the class to be a challenging learning experience, not one that simply gives voice to our preconceived notions of right and wrong.

It is also necessary that students conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to the classroom. Please remember that excessive chatting, reading texts or papers, *coming late and leaving early* are disruptive and distracting to other students and the instructor. **A 5-point penalty will be given after the third late occurrence and for every late attendance thereafter. Point penalties will also be assessed for leaving early, leaving the class and then returning, or any other disruptive activity. All cell phones must be on silent during class. This is your notification; I will not inform you that points are being deducted.**

(1) **Academic integrity** - Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

(2) **Students with disabilities** - If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583.

(3) **The Student Success Center** - Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

FINAL EXAM:

MWF 9:00 a.m. class: Tuesday, December 12th 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Tentative Schedule of Course Readings:

Date:	Topic:	Reading: (Rachels 7th ed)
Mon Aug 21	Distribution of syllabus	
Wed Aug 23	Introduction - Arguments	
Fri Aug 25	What is Morality?	Rachels, 1-14 (1-13)
Mon Aug 28	What is Morality? – cont'	

Wed	Aug 30	Religion – DCT/Natural Law	Rachels 49-58
Fri	Sept 01	Religion – DCT/Natural Law, cont'd	
Mon Sept 04 Labor Day – No Classes			
Wed	Sept 06	Relativism	Rachels, 15-32 (14-31)
Fri	Sept 08	Relativism, cont'd	
Mon	Sept 11	Psychological Egoism	Rachels, 64-71
Wed	Sept 13	Ethical Egoism	Rachels, 71-81
Fri	Sept 15	Exam I	
Mon	Sept 18	Review Exam I – Utilitarianism	Rachels, 99-125 (98-124)
Wed	Sept 20	Utilitarianism, continued	
Fri	Sept 22	Utilitarianism, continued	
Mon	Sept 25	Kant	Rachels, 126-140 (125-139)
Wed	Sept 27	Kant, continued	
Fri	Sept 29	Discussion/catch up	
Mon	Oct 02	Exam II	
Wed	Oct 04	Animal Welfare	Vaughn 543-552
Fri	Oct 06	All Animals are Equal	Singer 553-562
Mon	Oct 09	Speciesism and the Idea of Equality	Steinbock 585-591
Wed	Oct 11	Eating Animals	Foer
Fri Oct 13 Fall Break – No Classes			
Mon	Oct 16	Eating Animals – cont'd	
Wed	Oct 18	Eating Animals – cont'd	
Fri	Oct 20	Review – catch-up	
Mon	Oct 23	Abortion	Vaughn 163-174
Wed	Oct 25	A Defense of Abortion	Thomson 175-184
Fri	Oct 27	Virtue Theory and Abortion	Hursthouse 220-225
Mon	Oct 30	Euth. and Physician-Assisted Suicide	Vaughn 291-302
Wed	Nov 01	Film, Dax's Case	
Fri	Nov 03	Euthansia, cont'd	
Mon	Nov 06	Active and Passive Euthanasia	Rachels 302-306
Wed	Nov 08	From <i>Voluntary Active Euthanasia</i>	Brock 309-317
Fri	Nov 10	Punishment – general remarks	
Mon	Nov 13	Capital Punishment	Vaughn 353-363
Wed	Nov 15	Against the Death Penalty	Bedau 380-385
Fri	Nov 17	In Defense of the Death Penalty	Pojman 389-398
Mon Nov 20- Friday Nov 24 Thanksgiving Break – No Classes			
Mon	Nov 27	Famine, Affluence, and Morality	Singer, 721-726
Wed	Nov 29	Lifeboat Ethics/Omelas	Hardin 727-733/ LeGuin, Handout
Fri	Dec 01	Review – catch-up	
Mon	Dec 04	Review – catch-up	
Wed	Dec 06	The Question of Same-Sex Relations	Rachels 43-48 (44-48)
Fri	Dec 08	Review	

Note: This is only a **tentative** schedule. Changes may be announced in class.
Students are responsible for all changes.

Community Service Project

Philosophy 2500G – Introduction to Ethics

As an assignment for their class, I've asked my students to perform some sort of community service, such as giving blood, visiting someone at a nursing home, raking leaves or shoveling someone's walk. The service should take approximately **three hours** or more of their time. If they are paid or receive any other compensation, it doesn't count. I've asked them to document what they've done, so it would be very helpful if you could take a minute to complete this form. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call or write me. Thank you very much.

Jonelle DePetro
Department of Philosophy
Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL 61920

Student Name (please **print**): _____

Class time: _____

E#: _____

Date: _____

What service did the student perform? Approximately how long did it take?

Was the student paid or otherwise compensated? If so, please explain.

Your signature _____

Please **print** your name and phone, e-mail, or other contact information:

Fall 2017 Academic Calendar

Class Schedule Available	Jan 10	Mid-Term	Oct 11
Registration Begins	Mar 20	Second-Half-Term Courses Begin	Oct 12
Deadline to Clear Record with EIU or Lose your Fall Classes	Jul 28	Fall Break/No Classes	Oct 13
Term Opens	Aug 16	Deadline to initiate Late Withdrawal Request for Spring & Summer 2017 semester	Oct 16
Late Registration Begins (\$25 Late Fee)	Aug 21	Deadline to Remove Credit/No Credit Requests	Nov 03
First Half-Term Courses Begin	Aug 21	Last Day to Withdraw from a Course or University with W*	Nov 03
First Class Day	Aug 21	Non-refundable Late Withdrawal Fee Begins	Nov 04
Last Day to Add Courses	Aug 25	Deadline to Apply or Re-Apply for Graduation	Nov 07
Deadline to Submit Audit Requests 4:00 pm	Aug 29	Second-Half-Term Courses Deadline to Withdraw with W*	Nov 16
First Census Date - Count Day	Sep 01	Thanksgiving Break	Nov 20-24
Deadline to Withdraw from University OR Reduce Load/Full Refund of Tuition & Fees*	Sep 01	Last Class Day	Dec 08
Deadline to Submit Credit/No Credit Requests 4:00 pm	Sep 01	Final Examinations	Dec 11-15
Last Day to Enroll/Opt Out Student Insurance	Sep 01	Deadline to Return books/TRS/No Fine 3:00 pm	Dec 15
Last Day to Drop Course with No Grade*	Sep 01	Commencement	Dec 16
Deadline to Drop Hours and Not Be Charged*	Sep 01	Grades Due 4 P.M.	Dec 18
W for Course Withdrawal Begins*	Sep 02	Second Census Date - Term Closes	Dec 18
Labor Day Observance/No Classes	Sep 04	Holiday Closure	Dec 19-02
Last Day to Withdraw with 50% Tuition Refund	Sep 18	No Textbooks May be Turned in After	Dec 20
First-Half-Term Courses Deadline to Withdraw with W*	Sep 25	No Textbooks May be Turned in After	Dec 20
Second-Half-Term Courses Deadline to Add or Drop with No Grade*	Oct 11	Deadline to Complete Graduation Requirements	Jan 05