

Honors Ethics
PHIL-1CH-55060
Spring 2020
MWF 9:00-9:50
Forum, Room 10

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Rard
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Office Hours: MW 12:00-12:50
TR 12:00-1:20
By appointment

Description:

This course is a rigorous introduction to key ethical theories and their application to classic and contemporary moral problems through the study of four primary texts: Plato's Republic, Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics, Kant's Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals, and Mill's Utilitarianism. As an honors section, the class will be conducted as a seminar with an emphasis on student writing.

Required Texts:

Plato Republic Trans. Grube (Hackett)

Aristotle Nicomachean Ethics Trans. Irwin, 2nd ed. (Hackett)

Kant Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals: with On a Supposed Right to Lie Because of Philanthropic Concerns Trans. Ellington, 3rd ed. (Hackett)

Mill Utilitarianism Ed. Sher, 2nd ed. (Hackett)

Singer Practical Ethics 3rd ed. (Cambridge)

Grading:

Participation:	10%	
Argumentative Papers:	40%	(2 @ 20%)
		1 st paper breakdown (out of 100 pts):
		10 pts- outline
		10 pts- feedback response sheet
		80 pts- argumentative paper
		2 nd paper breakdown (out of 100 pts):
		10 pts- outline
		10 pts- feedback response sheet
		80 pts- argumentative paper
Paper Workshop Activities	10%	(2 rounds @ 5%)
Reading Reports:	10%	(2 @ 5%)
Midterm Exam:	10%	(1 @ 10%)
Final Exam:	20%	(1 @ 20%)

All writing assignments will be submitted using Canvas

Final Grade Breakdown:

<u>Percent of total points</u>	<u>Grade</u>
90-100	A
80-89.99	B
70-79.99	C
60-69.99	D
0-59.99	F

Attendance: Students who have more than **6 absences during the first half of the semester may be dropped from the class.** Students who have more than **12 absences for the entire semester may receive an unsatisfactory grade in the class.** Attendance will be taken at the very beginning of class. If you are not in your seat at the start of class, you will be marked absent. If you are late you **must raise your hand at the end of class until the instructor indicates that you have been marked as present.** There are **NO** excused absences so save your absences for when you need them. In case of extreme circumstances contact your instructor.

NOTE: The instructor does not guarantee that students will be dropped after having more than 4 unexcused absences. Hence, if you decide to drop this class it is your responsibility to actually drop the class. Failure to do so may result in a grade of 'F' for this course.

Coursework:

Reading Assignments: Students are expected to complete readings before class and come prepared to discuss the readings. The date the reading is listed on the syllabus is the date we will be discussing the material so you need to read the sections prior to the class period the readings are listed for. It is recommended that students read all material at least twice, taking notes or creating outlines of the reading from which they can study.

Participation: Students are expected to come to class regularly having reviewed the assigned material. Students may not work on anything from another class during class time, nor may they use electronic devices for any purpose other than those related to this course (except in case of emergency). Students may use laptops, cellphones, etc. for class related activities such as viewing electronic copies of the texts or taking notes. **To earn participation points** students must attend lecture regularly and participate in class discussions by asking questions or contributing comments. Some participation points can be earned by attending office hours, or by emailing your instructor with questions, although the bulk of your points must come from in-class participation. Merely showing up to lectures regularly will not be sufficient to earn full points for participation. In addition there will be several online discussions that students can participate in to earn some participation points.

Reading Reports: Students will write two reading reports. Further Instructions will be provided separately.

Argumentative Paper: Students will write two main argumentative papers. Further instructions will be provided separately.

Paper Workshop Activities: As part of your paper writing process you will create detailed outlines for your argumentative papers. You will then present this to a small group of students for feedback. As part of your paper you will be expected to respond to the feedback you receive. Further instructions will be provided separately.

In addition, you will be expected to provide feedback to other students based on their outlines/presentations during the in-class workshops. If you are absent during a workshop day then you may make up total of 2 responses with proof of a valid excuse and the instructor's permission. The total number of workshop rounds for the semester is not set but will probably end up being around 8 (about 2 per workshop day) . This means

that if you miss 2 days of workshops (for example) you will only be able to make up at most half of the missed assignments. Contact instructor for further information.

Seating Chart: A seating chart will be created during the first week of class. Students must sit in their assigned seats. Students who wish to change their assigned seats must ask the instructor. This is so that your instructor can keep track of your participation and be aware of your attendance levels, but more importantly it is so she can start to learn your names!

Examinations: There will be **two** exams in this course (one midterm and one final). The final might be cumulative but will emphasize the material covered since the last exam. The instructor will provide a selection of possible essay questions prior to the exam, and the instructor will choose from among these questions on the day of the exam. **Points may be taken off of your exam if you come to the exam late or if your cell phone makes noise during the exam.**

Behavioral Standards: Students are expected to do their best to be on time. Students should silence all cell phones before entering the classroom. **CELL PHONE USE IN CLASS IS ONLY PERMITTED FOR EMERGENCIES.** All students will **treat each other with professional courtesy at all times.** Students should participate regularly in class discussions and are expected to ask questions. Unless otherwise prompted, students should raise hands when they have questions or comments.

For classroom discussion, we will use the following procedure:

One finger up: You would like to respond to the current point or discussion (example: another student has just raised a question and you would like to respond to this question).

Hand up: You have a new question or comment that does not directly engage the current discussion.

Discussion with other students during class work is encouraged, provided the focus of the discussion is the work being completed. Please do not whisper amongst yourselves while the instructor is lecturing, or while a fellow classmate is addressing the class with a question or comment. This policy shall be strictly enforced because such behavior is disrespectful to your fellow classmates, and because whispering, no matter how softly, is distracting to others. If you have a question during lecture then please raise your hand! If you miss something that someone said, please raise your hand!

Late work/Absences:

Exams: Make-up **exams** will be granted on a case-by-case basis with **proof** of a valid excuse required. The instructor has final say as to what constitutes a valid excuse. If possible, students must discuss make-up exams with the instructor prior to the date of the exam. Failure to contact the instructor as soon as possible regarding missed exams may result in a score of 0 for the exam. Failure to provide documentation of a valid excuse may result in a score of 0 for the exam.

Late assignments: Late assignments will receive a 1/3 letter grade deduction per day (not per class day). All assignments are due on Canvas by 11:59 pm on the due date. After that the first 1/3 grade deduction begins and will continue until midnight on the following day. Exceptions will only be made with proof of a valid excuse (such as hospitalization), and are at the discretion of the instructor.

NOTE: Some in class-activities depend upon timely completion of assignments related to the argumentative papers. Specifically, you will be required to present your paper outlines/abstracts to a group for feedback, and will be required to provide feedback to your group members on their outlines. You will then need to respond to

the feedback. As such, there may be points lost in addition to the late deductions if some assignments are not completed on time.

Where to find your grade: Grades will be available on Canvas. Assignment/exam scores will be posted to Canvas prior to them being returned to students. **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO BRING ANY MISSING/WRONG SCORES TO THE ATTENTION OF THE INSTRUCTOR ASAP.** All problems must be reported to the instructor within 24 hours of the final exam. After that scores will not be changed. Any student with a question about their current grade in the course should feel encouraged to contact the instructor. Participation scores will not be posted until after the final. If you have questions/concerns about your participation score please speak with your instructor.

Special Needs Requests:

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact your instructor as soon as possible.

Academic Dishonesty:

Students at Reedley College are entitled to the best education that the college can make available to them, and they, their instructors, and their fellow students share the responsibility to ensure that this education is honestly attained. Because cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the integrity of the college, each student is expected to exert an entirely honest effort in all academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty in any form is a very serious offense and will incur serious consequences.

Cheating is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner, such as having improper access to answers, in an attempt to gain an unearned academic advantage. Cheating may include, but is not limited to, copying from another's work, supplying one's work to another, giving or receiving copies of examinations without an instructor's permission, using or playing notes or devices inappropriate to the conditions of the examination, allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the student, or failing to disclose research results completely.

Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating: the use of another's words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights.

Incidents of cheating and plagiarism may result in any of a variety of sanctions and penalties, which may range from a failing grade on a particular examination, paper, project, or assignment in question to a failing grade in the course, at the discretion of the instructor and depending on the severity and frequency of the incidents.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize, clarify, and critically evaluate classic arguments of moral philosophy;
2. Create and revise arguments on various moral issues;
3. Compare and contrast aretaic, deontological, and teleological approaches to various moral issues and problems with familiarity with four primary historical texts in which those approaches were developed.

Objectives:

In the process of completing this course, students will:

1. Understand and distinguish among some of the major moral problems that have challenged and continue to challenge individuals and societies throughout history;
2. Understand and distinguish among some of the major moral philosophers' attempts at understanding and addressing these challenges by reading four major works of Western moral philosophy;
3. Develop reasoned responses to moral challenges.

Important Dates:

1/31 LAST DAY TO DROP A FALL 2018 FULL-TERM CLASS TO AVOID A “W” IN PERSON
 2/2 LAST DAY TO DROP A FALL 2018 FULL-TERM CLASS TO AVOID A “W” ON WEBADVISOR
 3/13 LAST DAY TO DROP A FULL-TERM CLASS

OBSERVED HOLIDAYS (NO CLASS):

1/20 MLK, Jr. Day
 2/14 Lincoln Day
 2/17 Washington Day
 4/6-4/10 Spring Recess

The following course schedule is **tentative**. Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class ahead of time.

Date	Plan
1/13	Syllabus, policies, etc.
1/15	Overview of Ethics
1/17	Overview cont./ Plato intro.
1/20	NO CLASS Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
1/22	Plato: Euthyphro
1/24	Plato: Euthyphro/Republic Book I
1/27	Plato: Republic Book I Reading Report 1 Due
1/29	Plato: Republic Book II
1/31	Plato: Republic Book II
2/3	Plato: Republic Book III

2/5	Plato: Republic Book III
2/7	Plato: Republic Book IV
2/10	Plato: Republic Book IV Reading Report 2 Due
2/12	Plato: Republic Book V
2/14	NO CLASS Lincoln Day
2/17	NO CLASS Washington Day
2/19	Plato: Republic Book V
2/21	Plato: Republic Book VI
2/24	Plato: Republic Book VI
2/26	Plato: Republic Book VII
2/28	Plato: Republic VII Outline Due for 1st Argumentative Paper
3/2	Paper Workshop
3/4	Paper Workshop
3/6	Plato: Republic Book VIII
3/9	Plato: Republic Book VIII
3/11	Overview of Normative Ethics
3/13	Midterm
3/16	Overview Cont. Aristotle Introduction
3/18	Aristotle: Nicomachean Ethics Book I
3/20	Aristotle: Nicomachean Ethics Book I
3/23	Aristotle: Nicomachean Ethics Book II
3/25	Aristotle: Nicomachean Ethics Book II 1st Argumentative Paper Due
3/27	Aristotle: Nicomachean Ethics Book III
3/30	Aristotle: Nicomachean Ethics Book III
4/1	Aristotle: Nicomachean Ethics Book IV
4/3	Aristotle: Nicomachean Ethics Book V
4/6-4/10	NO CLASS: SPRING RECESS
4/13	Aristotle: Nicomachean Ethics Book VI
4/15	Kant: Grounding Preface/ First Section
4/17	Kant: Grounding Second Section
4/20	Kant: Third Section Outline Due for 2nd Argumentative Paper

4/22	Paper Workshop
4/24	Paper Workshop
4/27	Mill: Utilitarianism Chapters 1-3
4/29	Mill: Utilitarianism Chapters 4-5
5/1	Problems with Utilitarianism
5/4	Singer: Practical Ethics Chapter 2
5/6	Singer: Practical Ethics Chapter 3
5/8	Singer: Practical Ethics Chapter 4
5/11	Singer: Practical Ethics Chapter 8
5/13	Singer: Practical Ethics Chapter 9
5/15	Closing Discussion 2nd Argumentative Paper Due
5/20	FINAL EXAM 9:00-10:50