

Philosophy 1CH: Honors Ethics

Instructor Information

Dr. Elizabeth Rard
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Office Hours:
M 1:00-2:30
T 10:30-11:30
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Th 10:30-11:30
Or by appointment!

Course Information

Honors Ethics
PHIL-1CH-52651
Spring 2021

Delivery: 100% Online
Asynchronous Lectures
Required Synchronous Meetings: Fridays 9:00-9:50

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

Discussion Posts:	15%	(15 @ 1%)
Paper Outlines	5%	(2 @ 2.5%)
Argumentative Papers	30%	(2 @ 15%)
Self-Reflections	5%	(2 @ 2.5%)
Paper Workshop Activities	5%	(2 rounds @ 2.5%)
Reading Reports:	10%	(2 @ 5%)
Midterm Exam:	10%	(1 @ 10%)
Final Exam:	20%	(1 @ 20%)

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
50-59.99	F

Course Policies

Course Communication policy

Keeping in contact with your instructor is key to your success in any course. Here is some important information about how we'll keep in touch throughout the semester.

Where to find everything:

- **Canvas:** All course materials, instructions, assignments, etc. will be posted on Canvas. New course content will be released every Friday between 12:00-1:00. Course content will be organized in weekly modules.

How you can contact me:

- **Email:** You can contact me by sending an email to me at elizabeth.rard@reedleycollege.edu, or by messaging me through Canvas. When contacting me please include your **full name and class number** in the subject line of your message, and observe professional email etiquette. If emailing me directly please use only your official SCCCD email account. I am available Monday-Friday between the hours of 9am and 5pm and will respond to your email within 24 hours.
- **Office Hours:** During my office hours I am available via either of the above methods. In addition, I will be available through Zoom for live one-on-one video and audio drop in office hours. Please see the **Office Hours Page** of the **Introduction Module** for my up-to-date office hour schedule, and for more information about how to join office hours using Zoom.

How I will contact you:

- **Class Announcements:** I will post weekly class announcements on Canvas that will include reminders about upcoming assignments, any changes to our plan, or any other important information that I need to share with the class. Students are expected to check class announcements regularly on our course page.
- **Individual Messages:** If I need to get in contact with you specifically I will send a message through the Canvas inbox. Students are expected to check their SCCCD email regularly to monitor for any important communications.

Attendance and Drop Policy

Students are expected to participate consistently and regularly in all parts of this course throughout the semester.

- **Week One Drop:** During the first week of class students must post an introduction message or video in the **Introduction Discussion**. Any student who does not post by **2 pm on Friday of the first week of class** will be dropped as a no show.
- **Attendance:** Each week students are expected to post to a weekly discussion board, and attend the Friday meeting. Attendance will be recorded based on these two items. Failure to complete either will count as an absence (up to **two absences per week**). If a student has **more than four absences** prior to the end of Week 9 they may be **dropped from the class**. Please contact your instructor immediately in case of any emergency situation that results in more than four absences.

Late Work Policy

Staying on top of course work is crucial to a smooth and successful semester. The late penalties outlined below are designed to help you stay on track and not fall behind. That being said I realize that sometimes life gets in the way. Always communicate with your instructor (me!) in a timely fashion if events occur that will prevent your timely completion of class assignments.

- **Discussion posts:** These assignments are given weekly and are time sensitive. Both will become available at **noon on Friday** of the week they are given, and will close at **2 pm on Friday of the following week**. Once these assignments have closed they cannot be made up. Note: These assignments also count as your attendance for the week. The two lowest scores for each will be dropped.
- **Exams:** Make-up exams will only be given with documented proof of a valid excuse (such as hospitalization). If you know in advance that you will need to miss an exam contact your instructor immediately to discuss your options. Exams will be timed by may be completed any time during the exam week. Midterm exams will be posted at **noon on Friday** and will close at **2 pm on Friday of the following week**. The Final Exam will post on Wednesday of the last week of class, and will be due at **2 pm on the Wednesday of Finals Week**.
- **All other assignments:** All other assignments (such as essays, writing assignments etc.) can be submitted past the due date. If an assignment is not **submitted by the deadline** it will receive a 10% penalty. If an assignment is more than **24 hours late** the penalty will increase to 20%. No

additional penalties will be added. **No late work will be accepted after Friday at 2:00 pm of Week 17** (the last week of regular class).

Coursework

Reading Assignments

Students are expected to complete readings during the week that they are posted. Reading assignments will relate to the class lectures and discussions occurring during the week that they are posted.

Discussion Board Posts

Students are required to post to a weekly discussion board, and to reply to at least two fellow classmates per week. Specific directions will be provided each week. Students need to make their **initial post** by **2:00 pm on Friday** of the week they are due, and must post **responses** to other students by **2 pm on the following Monday**. Please follow academic etiquette when interacting on discussion boards. It's fine (and even encouraged) to question or disagree with someone's post, but always do so in a way that is respectful and has a goal of fostering communication and intellectual exploration.

Reading Reports

Students will write two reading reports. Further directions for this assignment will be posted on Canvas

Argumentative Paper

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

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 exams will be essay responses. I will provide you with the essay questions, and you will have one week to complete and submit your responses. Collaboration is not allowed on the exams.

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 your responses with proof of a valid excuse and the instructor's permission.

Where to find your grade

Grades will be available on Canvas. Assignment/exam scores will be posted to Canvas.. **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.

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

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

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 through 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 answering moral challenges by reading four major works of Western moral philosophy;
3. Develop reasoned responses to moral challenges.

Advisories

ENGL 1A or ENGL 1AH Reading and Composition

The following course schedule is **tentative**. The amount of time we spend on any given paper/topic will be partly determined by the energy of the discussion and the level of participation. Material will be removed from the schedule to allow for more in depth discussion when required. Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class ahead of time.

Week	Plan
Week 1 1/11 - 1/15	<u>Content</u> Introduction Zoom Discussion: Friday 9:00-9:50 <u>Assignments</u> Welcome Discussion Post: Due at 2 pm on 1/15. Failure to post will result in being dropped as a no-show.
Week 2 1/18 -1/22	<u>Content</u> Overview of Ethics Zoom Discussion: Friday 9:00-9:50 <u>Assignments</u> Discussion Post Week 2 <u>Important Dates:</u> 1/18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Campus Holiday)

<p>Week 3 1/25 – 1/29</p>	<p><u>Content</u></p> <p>Plato Books I Zoom Discussion: Friday 9:00-9:50</p> <p><u>Assignments</u></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 3 Reading Report 1 Due 1/29</p>
<p>Week 4 2/1 – 2/5</p>	<p><u>Content</u></p> <p>Plato Books II & III Zoom Discussion: Friday 9:00-9:50</p> <p><u>Assignments</u></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 4</p>
<p>Week 5 2/8 – 2/12</p>	<p><u>Content</u></p> <p>Plato Books IV & V No Zoom Meeting (Holiday)</p> <p><u>Assignments</u></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 5 Reading Report 2 Due 2/12</p> <p><u>Important Dates:</u></p> <p>2/12 Lincoln’s Birthday (Campus Holiday)</p>
<p>Week 6 2/15 – 2/19</p>	<p><u>Content</u></p> <p>Plato Book VI Zoom Discussion: Friday 9:00-9:50</p> <p><u>Assignments</u></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 6</p> <p><u>Important Dates:</u></p> <p>2/15 Washington’s Birthday (Campus Holiday)</p>
<p>Week 7 2/22 – 2/26</p>	<p><u>Content</u></p> <p>Plato Books VII & VIII Zoom Discussion: Friday 9:00-9:50</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paper Workshop Activities during Zoom meeting. <p><u>Assignments</u></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 7 1st Paper Outline Due 2/24 at 2pm</p>

<p>Week 8 3/1 – 3/5</p>	<p><u>Content</u></p> <p>Overview of Normative Ethics Zoom Discussion: Friday 9:00-9:50</p> <p><u>Assignments</u></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 8</p>
<p>Week 9 3/8 – 3/12</p>	<p><u>Content</u></p> <p>Aristotle Books 1 & 2 Zoom Discussion: Friday 9:00-9:50</p> <p><u>Assignments</u></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 9</p> <p>Midterm Exam Due 3/12 by 2 pm (published 3/5 at noon)</p> <p><u>Important Dates:</u></p> <p>3/12 Last day to drop a full-term class</p>
<p>Week 10 3/15 -3/19</p>	<p><u>Content</u></p> <p>Aristotle Books 3 & 4 Zoom Discussion: Friday 9:00-9:50</p> <p><u>Assignments</u></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 10</p> <p>Quiz Week 10</p>
<p>Week 11 3/22 – 3/26</p>	<p><u>Content</u></p> <p>Aristotle Books 5 & 6 Zoom Discussion: Friday 9:00-9:50</p> <p><u>Assignments</u></p> <p>Discussion post Week 11</p> <p>First Argumentative Paper Due on 3/26 at 2 pm</p> <p>First Self-Reflection Due on 3/26 at 2 pm</p> <p><u>Important Dates:</u></p> <p>3/29-4/2 Spring Recess (Campus Holiday)</p>
<p>Week 12 4/5 – 4/9</p>	<p><u>Content</u></p> <p>Kant Preface and First Section Zoom Discussion: Friday 9:00-9:50</p> <p><u>Assignments</u></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 12</p>
<p>Week 13 4/12 – 4/16</p>	<p><u>Content</u></p> <p>Kant Second/Third Sections Zoom Discussion: Friday 9:00-9:50</p> <p><u>Assignments</u></p>

	Discussion Post Week 13
Week 14 4/19 – 4/23	<p><u>Content</u></p> <p>Mill Chapters 1-3 Zoom Discussion: Friday 9:00-9:50 -Paper Workshops Activities During Class</p> <p><u>Assignments</u></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 14 2nd Paper Outline Due 4/21 at 2 pm</p>
Week 15 4/26 – 4/30	<p><u>Content</u></p> <p>Mill Chapters 4-6 Zoom Discussion: Friday 9:00-9:50</p> <p><u>Assignments</u></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 15 Quiz Week 15</p>
Week 16 5/3 – 5/7	<p><u>Content</u></p> <p>Singer Zoom Discussion: Friday 9:00-9:50</p> <p><u>Assignments</u></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 16</p>
Week 17 5/10 – 5/14	<p><u>Content</u></p> <p>Singer Zoom Discussion: Friday 9:00-9:50</p> <p><u>Assignments</u></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 17</p> <p>2nd Paper Due on 5/12 at 2 pm 2nd Self-Reflection due at 5/12 at 2 pm Final Exam posted by noon on 5/12</p> <p>All late work due by 2:00 pm on 5/14</p>
Week 18 5/17 – 5/21	<p><u>Assignments</u></p> <p>Final Exam is Due by 2:00 pm on 5/19</p>