

Phil 020 - Ethics

Instructor: Vanessa Schulz

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Course Description: This course is an inquiry into the nature of morality, and ethical theory in both historical and contemporary settings as they apply to business, the arts, science, and medicine. An analysis of utilitarianism, duty theory and virtue theory as well as contemporary moral issues such as abortion, capital punishment, animal rights, environmental issues and the role of ethics in political and social policy.

Texts: There is no text(s) for this course. All readings will be available on the course website.

Assessment: Your grade in this course will be based on a point system, with a maximum of 100 points. There will be no extra credit assignments; you must earn points by completing the work assigned. Points may be earned in the following ways:

1. Your **participation**--which means logging onto the class website prepared, expressing and defending your ideas clearly and constructively, contributing relevant points of interest, making connections between course material and material from other courses and from the world outside the school, and demonstrating enthusiasm within the discussion area of the course website count for 20 points of the final grade. In order to receive all 20 points you must contribute to the class discussion by posting comments and/or questions or by answering your classmates questions.

2. **Paper assignments**--there will be four short papers, 2-3 pages, that will be due at the end of each of the following sections: **Classical, Medieval, Modern, and Applied**. A paper topic will be posted in the Tasks, Tests and Surveys section of the course website asking a question that you will need to answer based on the readings for that section. Each of these papers will be worth 20 points.

Make-up Policy: There will be no make-ups allowed. All papers must be turned in on time. No exceptions.

Office Hours: Office hours will be help online Tuesdays and Thursdays through the course website from 11 am - 12 noon.

Plagiarism: meaning an attempt to give your reader the impression that words or ideas in an essay are your own when in fact they are someone else's, is a serious academic offense that can get you thrown out of college. If you are caught plagiarizing you will receive an automatic F in this course and will be reported to Academic Affairs. Don't take any chances! If you have questions as to what should be cited please ask.

Student Learning Objectives: upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Students will be able to evaluate ethical theories, movements and ideas.

Schedule:

Week 1: Module 1: Introduction, discussion activity.

Week 2: Module 2: Classical theories, discussion activity.

Week 3: Module 3: Classical theories continued, discussion activity. (Short paper 1)

Week 4: Module 4: Medieval theories, discussion activity.

Week 5: Module 5: Medieval theories continued, discussion activity.

Week 6: Module 6: Medieval theories continued, discussion activity. (Short paper 2)

Week 7: Module 7: Modern theories I, discussion activity.

Week 8: Module 8: Modern theories II, discussion activity.

Week 9: Module 9: Modern theories III, discussion activity.

Week 10: Module 10: Modern theories IV, discussion activity.

Week 11: Module 11: Modern theories V, discussion activity.

Week 12: Module 12: Modern theories VI, discussion activity. (Short paper 3)

Week 13: Module 13: Applied theory, discussion activity.

Week 14: Module 3: Applied theory continued, discussion activity.

Week 15: Module 2: Applied theory continued, discussion activity.

Week 16: Module 3: Final remarks (Short paper 4)