

LA Mission College
Spring 2014

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Philosophy 20: Ethics
Section 3396 Thursday 3:30-6:40 INST 1002

Course Description

Philosophy 20 is an introductory course in ethics. Students will confront fundamental moral questions such as: What is good? What is right? What are moral obligations or duties? How is virtue acquired? Are values relative? Is morality subjective or objective? What is the relation between religion and morality? The course will also address issues in applied ethics including abortion, violence, animal rights, sex, drugs, cloning, euthanasia, and patriotism.

Course Objectives

Students who successfully complete the course will be prepared to participate in contemporary discourses about the nature of morality and the contemporary ethical controversies our community faces. An understanding of foundational ethical issues, problems, and approaches will equip students to think carefully and critically about the ethical dilemmas they confront in their personal, professional, and public lives.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the views of some historically significant moral philosophers.
2. Explain predominant ethical theories and concepts.
3. Integrate these theories and concepts into analysis of case studies and contemporary moral and social issues.

Required Text

Rachels, James The Elements of Moral Philosophy. (7th Ed)
The Right Thing to Do. (6th Ed.)

Course Requirements

Completion of assigned readings (evidence will be the students ability to participate in class discussions); issues debates (small group debates on contemporary moral issues); midterm exam; final exam; critical essay (5-7 page paper on an issue covered in the course). Individual presentation on an issue or moral theory.

Evaluation

Class participation:	10%
Individual Presentation	15 %
Group Presentation:	15%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Essay	20%

Surely knowledge of this good is also of great importance for the conduct of our lives, and if, like archers, we have a target to aim at, we are more likely to hit the right mark. If so, we should try to grasp, in outline at any rate, what the good is. Aristotle

Schedule

2/13 Course Introduction. Moral theory and moral controversy.

2/20 Religion and ethics: Ancient religious approaches to morality

2/27 Plato's Euthyphro

2/28 Virtue ethics in Plato and Aristotle, Ch 12 157-172 (Elements); ch 8 pp 63-69 Aristotle (RTD)

3/6 Relativism. Ch. 2 (Elements) Subjectivism. Ch 3 32-48 (Elements); ch 6 pp.47-58 "The Subjectivity of values" JL Mackie (RTD)

3/13 Kantian and utilitarian approaches to ethical theory. Ch. 9 and 10 125-145 (Elements); Ch. 7 59-62 (RTD) Ch. 7 and 8 pp. 98-124 (Elements); Ch. 3-5 pp. 28-46(RTD)

3/20 Justice. Ch. 6 pp. 82-97 (Elements) Feminist Ethics. Ch . 11 pp. 146-156 (Elements); Ch. 10 pp. 74-80 (RTD)

3/27 Exam review. Midterm exam

4/3 Abortion. RTD Ch. 11-13 pp. 81-115; If These Walls Could Talk

4/17 Animal Rights RTD Ch. 14-16 116-146; Environmental ethics <http://www.cep.unt.edu/novice.html> Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: Environmental Ethics

4/24 Sex RTD Ch. 26-29 240-266 Drugs RTD Ch. 25; 30 226-239; 267-277.

5/1 Violence and war Ch. 20-24; 174-225 Patriotism RTD Ch. 31 pp. 278-285.

5/8 Capital Punishment. RTD Ch. 18-19; pp. 154-173 Dead Man Walking

5/15 Bioethics RTD Ch. 34-37; 312-335 Million Dollar Baby

5/22 Small group preparation for group presentations.

5/29 Group presentations

6/5 Final Exam 5:30- 7:30 PM

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance and consistent study are the two factors which contribute most to success in college work. A college student is expected to attend all sessions of the classes in which he/she is enrolled. Failure to attend class can result in a drop or dismissal from class. When the number of hours a student is absent in the course exceed the number of hours the course meets per week, the student may be dropped from the course. The instructor may initiate the drop but it is the student's responsibility to drop. Arriving late or leaving early will count as an absence on the second occasion it occurs.

Cheating- unauthorized material used during an examination (including electronic devices), changing answers after work has been graded, taking an exam for another student, forging or altering attendance sheets or other documents in the course, looking at another student's paper/scantron/essay/computer or exam with or without their approval is considered cheating. Any student caught cheating will receive a zero for the assignment/exam and referred to the Department chair and/or Student Services for further disciplinary action.

Plagiarism- Plagiarism is defined as the act of using ideas, words, or work of another person or persons as if they were one's own, without giving proper credit to the original sources. This includes definitions found online on Wikipedia, materials from blogs, twitter, or other similar electronic resources. The following examples are intended to be representative, but not all inclusive:

- failing to give credit by proper citations for others ideas and concepts, data and information, statements and phrases, and/or interpretations and conclusions.
- failing to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another, whether it be a paragraph, a sentence, or a part thereof
- Paraphrasing the expressions or thought by others without appropriate quotation marks or attribution
- Representing another's artistic/scholarly works such as essays, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawings, sculptures or similar works as one's own.

First offense, you will receive a zero for the assignment in question. Any further offenses may result in expulsion from the class, as determined by the disciplinary action from the Office of Student Services.

Recording devices in the classroom- Section 78907 of the California Education Code prohibits the use of any electronic audio or video recording devices, without prior consent of the instructor. (including cell phones, laptops, MP3 players, and more)

Reasonable Accommodations: If you are a student with a disability and require accommodations, please send me a private email. The sooner I am aware of your eligibility for accommodations, the quicker I will be able to assist the DSP&S Office in providing them. For students requiring accommodations, the DSP&S Office at Mission College provides special assistance in areas like: registering for courses, specialized tutoring, note-taking, mobility assistance, special instruction, testing assistance, special

equipment, special materials, instructor liaisons, community referrals and job placement. If you have not done so already, you may also wish to contact the DSP&S Office in Instructional Building 1018 (phone 818/364-7732 TTD 818/364-7861) and bring a letter stating the accommodations that are needed.