

## Philosophy 100A: Ethics Spring 2016

### Course Description:

An examination of some fundamental concepts and theories of moral philosophy. We will pay special attention to the rationality of morality. Is it rational to be moral? If so, why? If not, why not? We will focus on three important philosophers—Aristotle, Hobbes, and Kant—whose answers to these questions have proved enduring.

### Instructor:

E. Sonny Elizondo  
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Office Hours: TBA

### Lectures:

Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30pm - 4:45pm, North Hall 1006

As a courtesy to your instructors and fellow students, please be on time to lectures and avoid any distracting use of computers, phones, or other electronic devices.

### Required Reading:

- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., ed. and tr. Terrence Irwin, Hackett Publishing, 1999.
- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ed. Edwin Curley, Hackett Publishing, 1994.
- David Gauthier, "Why Contractarianism?" (online)
- Immanuel Kant, *Ethical Philosophy*, tr. James W Ellington, Hackett Publishing, 1995.

### Course Requirements:

*Required Reading:* Readings should be completed **before** they are discussed in lecture. Since the texts are difficult, you will need to read them multiple times—at least once before the lecture and **at least** once after. More is better.

*Written Work:* There will be three short papers due in weeks four, seven, and ten. Late papers will be penalized one third of a letter grade for each day (or portion thereof) that they are late, including weekends. **Extensions will be granted at the discretion of the TA and must be requested at least 24 hours prior to the due date/time.**

There will also be a take-home final exam.

Grading:

Paper 1	20%
Paper 2	25%
Paper 3	30%
Final	25%

**\*\*All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.\*\***

Academic Integrity:

Honesty and integrity in all academic work is essential for a valuable educational experience. The Office of Judicial Affairs has policies, tips, and resources for proper citation use, recognizing actions considered to be cheating or other forms of academic theft, and students' responsibilities, available on their website at: <http://judicialaffairs.sa.ucsb.edu>. Students are responsible for educating themselves on the policies and for abiding by them. Ignorance is no excuse.

Protected Content:

All course materials (class lectures and discussions, handouts, examinations, web materials) and the intellectual content of the course itself are protected by United States Federal Copyright Law, the California Civil Code. The UC Policy 102.23 expressly prohibits students (and all other persons) from recording lectures or discussions and from distributing or selling lectures notes and all other course materials without the prior written permission of the instructor (See <http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/2710530/PACAOS-100>). Students are permitted to make notes solely for their own private educational use. Exceptions to accommodate students with disabilities may be granted with appropriate documentation.

Student Resources:

*Disabled Students Program:* Students with disabilities may request academic accommodations for exams online through the UCSB Disabled Students Program at <http://dsp.sa.ucsb.edu/>. Please make your requests for exam accommodations through the online system as early in the quarter as possible to ensure arrangement.

*Campus Learning Assistance Services:* For general academic support, students are encouraged to visit Campus Learning Assistance Services (CLAS) early and often. CLAS offers instructional groups, drop-in tutoring, writing and ESL services, skills workshops and one-on-one consultations. CLAS is located on the third floor of the Student Resource Building, or visit <http://clas.sa.ucsb.edu>

*Counseling and Psychological Services:* Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationships, depression, cultural differences, can interfere with the ability of students to succeed and thrive. For helpful resources, please contact UCSB Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) at 805-893-4411 or visit <http://counseling.sa.ucsb.edu/>

### Schedule of Assignments:

(Please note that the schedule is tentative and subject to modification.)

#### ***Aristotle***

Week One: Practical Philosophy

- *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book I, Chapters 1 through 7(§8)

Week Two: Human Happiness and Human Function

- *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book I, Chapters 7(§9) through 13

Week Three: The Virtues

- *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book II, Chapters 1 through 6; Book III, Chapters 6-9; Book VI, Chapters 1, 5, 7, 9, 12, 13

Week Three and Four: The Final Account of Human Happiness

- *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book X 6-8

#### ***Hobbes***

Week Four: The State of Nature

- *Leviathan*, Introduction, Chapters 6, 10, 11, and 13

Week Five: Laws of Nature and the Emergence of Morality

- *Leviathan*, Chapters 14 and 15

Week Six: Contracts and the Commonwealth

- *Leviathan*, Chapters 17, 18, 21

- “Why Contractarianism?” §§I-III

Weeks Six and Seven: A Contractarianism Basis for Morality

- “Why Contractarianism?” §§III-V

#### ***Kant***

Week Seven: A Science of Ethics

- *Groundwork*, Preface and Section I

- *Metaphysics of Morals*, Introduction, §§I-II

Week Eight: The Fundamental Law of Ethics

- *Groundwork*, Section II

Week Nine: From Rational to Human Beings

- *Metaphysics of Morals*, Introduction

- *Metaphysical Principles of Virtue*, Introduction (esp. §§I-V, VIII-IX).

Week Ten: Duties to Self, Duties to Others

- *Metaphysical Principles of Virtue*, Doctrine of the Elements of Ethics, Parts I and II  
(Selections TBA)