

## Phil 3: Historical Introduction to Philosophy

Fall 2019

### Instructor

Janelle DeWitt

dewitt@humnet.ucla.edu

Dodd 395

OH: W 1-2, Th 2-3 and by appointment

### Teaching Assistants:

Carlos Gutierrez

cgutierrez@humnet.ucla.edu

Dodd 375

OH: F 12-2, Shapiro Courtyard

**1A:** Boelter 2760, T 9-9:50am

**1B:** Boelter 5273, T 10-10:50am

Ayana Samuel

asamuel@humnet.ucla.edu

Dodd 330

OH: TBD

**1C:** Bunche 3150, W 9-9:50am

**1D:** Bunche 3170, W 10-10:50am

Max Schoenberger

maxschoenberger@gmail.com

Dodd ?

OH: M 3-5 at LuValle Commons

**1A:** Royce 156, R 4-4:50pm

**1B:** Royce 156, R 5-5:50pm

### Course

M/W/F 2-2:50, Dodd Hall 121

### Course Description

This course is an introduction to two major topics in the history of philosophy—the nature of morality, and the nature of the mind. The first topic will cover questions such as: how do we know what is moral? Is there an objective standard for right and wrong? What makes something right or wrong? What motivates us to do the right thing? How do we explain why we sometimes don't? The second topic will cover questions such as: What is the mind, soul, self, or I? Are they distinct concepts, or do they refer to the same thing? What is the mind's relationship to the body? What does it mean to be a *person*, or to have a *self*?

### Course Objectives

There are three primary course objectives.

1. To consider some of the complex questions related to our moral agency, including questions about moral motivation, moral judgment, moral responsibility, moral evil, and their relation to individual happiness/well-being.
2. To consider some of the complex questions related to personhood, including questions about what it is to have a mind, to have a self, to be an *I*.
3. More generally, to learn *how* to think, not what to think. This includes:
  - a. Learning to read difficult philosophical texts carefully, critically, but also charitably.
  - b. Learning how to develop your own positions and to defend them with arguments, in class discussion and in written work.
  - c. Learning how to discuss complex and often sensitive ideas with others in a way that leads to a better understanding of each other and the topic at hand—even when you may vehemently disagree on the topic. It is only through an open and respectful exchange of ideas that any progress might be made on the most difficult moral issues we currently face.

### Course Requirements

60% 2 papers (3-4 pages, 30% each)

30% final exam

10% class/section participation

### Required Texts

There are no required texts for this class. All readings will be posted as pdf's on the course website.

## Readings, Assignments and Participation

The reading and assignment schedule is **tentative**, subject to course pacing. The reading assignments will be short, but very difficult. (We will usually cover about 5-10 pages per class period.) My suggestion is to read through the assignment once quickly before class, listen to the lecture, and then read through it again more carefully afterwards. The material will make more sense the second time around.

The assigned papers are due on the due date listed in the syllabus (unless otherwise noted in class). The extension policy will be announced when papers are assigned. Extensions must be requested *before* the paper is due. Any papers submitted after the due date (or after the extension when requested) will be penalized 1/3 letter grade/day late. When turning in papers, you will need to submit *both* a hard copy in class and an electronic copy via Turnitin.

Participation will also be considered in determining final grades. For the participation grade, **active participation** in class and section is required—*mere attendance is not enough*. If you are nervous to speak up in class, feel free to stop by your TA's or my office hours, or email any questions or thoughts you might have to us. If you miss class, contact a classmate for notes. If you will miss an exam due to illness, reasonable schedule conflicts, etc., contact me *before* the exam to make alternative arrangements.

## Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students needing academic accommodations based on a disability should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE, previously known as the Office for Students with Disabilities) at (310) 825-1501 or in person at A255 Murphy Hall. When possible, students should contact CAE within the first two weeks of the term as reasonable notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. For more information visit [www.cae.ucla.edu](http://www.cae.ucla.edu). Only students with a disability documented by CAE will receive accommodations.

## Academic Integrity

Academic misconduct in any form (including plagiarism, note-selling, multiple submissions, and cheating) will be dealt with according to UCLA's policy and procedures regarding academic honesty. This includes reporting suspected violations to the Dean of Students. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes plagiarism, the library has a helpful guide (<http://guides.library.ucla.edu/citing/plagiarism/avoid>). When you submit an assignment with your name on it, you are signifying that the work contained therein is yours, unless otherwise cited or referenced. Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral use must be fully acknowledged. Penalties for academic misconduct may include a failing grade on the assignment, a reduction in your final course grade, and/or a failing grade in the course, among other possibilities. If you are unsure about the expectations for completing an assignment or taking a test exam, be sure to seek clarification beforehand.

*An additional warning to the generous at heart:* If a classmate asks to see your paper because he is having a hard time with his, I advise against sharing it. In particular, don't email it to him. If he copies (even parts of) it, and the result is that two papers are submitted that look very similar, you may both face penalties. Instead, advise him to talk with me about his writing problems. (I'm really good at helping in cases like these.) You are, of course, free to talk with classmates, listening to their ideas and giving suggestions (in each case giving credit where credit is due), but if someone is putting pressure on you to share a draft of your paper with him, **don't**.

*An additional warning to the bold at heart:* I take plagiarism (and academic misconduct in general) **very, very seriously**. Everyone recognizes that it undermines the integrity of the class and the grades issued for it. But it is especially problematic for a philosophy class because it undermines the very point of the class itself—to teach you how to think for yourself. When you “borrow” material from the internet, from a friend, etc., and present it as your own, you are essentially telling me that *you* have nothing important to say, or that *you* can't arrive at an interesting answer on your own—i.e., that *you* cannot think for yourself (when I *know* that you can). It is because of this, and because it is a course covering *ethics*, that I will be especially vigilant.

### ***Tentative Reading and Assignment Schedule***

Week 0 (9/27)	Introduction
Week 1 (9/30, 10/2, 10/4)	Aristotle— <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> —Book I
Week 2 (10/7, 10/9, 10/11)	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> —Book I continued
Week 3 (10/14, 10/16, 10/18)	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> —Book II-III
Week 4 (10/21, 10/23, 10/25)	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> —finish up Kant— <i>Groundwork</i> —Section I--start [Paper topics handed out]
Week 5 (10/28, 10/30, 11/1)	Kant— <i>Groundwork</i> —Section I <b>Paper #1 due—Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> at 2pm</b>
Week 6 (11/4, 11/6, 11/8)	<i>Groundwork</i> —Section II (up to 4:421)
Week 7 (11/13, 11/15)	<i>Groundwork</i> —Section II (up to 4:436) [Paper topics handed out] <b>Veterans Day 11/11—no class</b>
Week 8 (11/18, 11/20, 11/22)	Aquinas— <i>Summa Q75</i> <b>Paper #2 due—Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2pm</b>
Week 9 (11/25, 11/27)	Descartes— <i>Meditations</i> <b>Thanksgiving 11/29—no class</b>
Week 10 (12/2, 12/4, 12/6)	Hume— <i>Of Personal Identity</i> (If time) Locke— <i>Of Identity and Diversity</i>
Week 11 (Finals Weeks)	<b>Final Exam—Weds. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, 8-11am</b>