

PHIL 1020: Introduction to Ethics

Summer 2010 WTWThF 11:00am-12:15pm

Instructor:

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General Remarks:

This course is designed so as to promote class discussion. While I will do some lecturing, my primary intention is for us to discuss—as a group—the arguments and positions presented in the readings and my lectures, and for you to offer arguments of your own. It is therefore important that you all feel free to make arguments, even controversial ones. Some of the best discussion in philosophy is generated by people defending controversial views—even ones that they do not personally hold. So, not only should you feel comfortable defending viewpoints that may not be popular, but I encourage all of you to consider how you might defend viewpoints that are not your own. Along these lines, you should always be mindful of the fact that the positions your classmates take do not necessarily represent what they actually believe.

Course Materials:

There is no book to purchase for this class. Readings will be posted in .pdf format on Blackboard and will be assigned each day for the following class. A record of readings and topics will be available on the Course Calendar on Blackboard.

Assignments:

- Quizzes – From time to time, there will be short quizzes on the course material. These quizzes will be given online through Blackboard. You will always have at least 24 hours' notice. These quizzes will be short, but not easy. The questions do not merely ask you to recall details about an argument, a position, etc., but to draw relevant conclusions from that information.
- Paper – Over the next two weeks or so, we will be discussing a number of moral theories. Each of you will be asked to write a paper applying these theories to a relevant moral issue. These papers will be turned in and you will receive detailed feedback. You will edit/rewrite the paper in light of these comments. Your final grade on this assignment will depend on both versions, with the standards being higher for the second.

- Final – I will decide later in the session what form the final will take, but it will likely be an exam, a take-home exam, or a paper. I will take students' preferences into consideration in making this decision.

Grading:

Your grade will be out of a total of 100 points:

- 40 points for quizzes
- 30 points for the paper (10 for the first draft, 20 for the second)
- 30 points for the final
- Class participation considered in borderline cases

Academic Dishonesty:

It is my hope that this section of the syllabus is merely a formality. Please do not plagiarize. In all but the most extremely exceptional cases, students found presenting others' work as their own will fail this course. The school's official policies on the matter can be found here:

http://www.bgsu.edu/catalog/Acad_policies/Acad_policies2.html.