

Introduction to Ethics
730:107:01, Spring 2014

Instructor: Erik Hoversten
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Office: Gateway building, 106 Somerset St, 5th floor, rm 533, CAC
Office Hrs: TF 11:30a-1:00p and by appt.

Meeting Place: Scott Hall, Room 214, CAC
Meeting Times: TF 9:50a-11:10a

Textbook: There is no textbook for this class. Readings can be found on the course website under the “Resources” tab.

Course website: www.erikhoversten.com/intro-ethics-s14

Course overview

In this course, we will examine some interesting issues in normative philosophy with an eye toward the nature of morality and the foundations of ethical theory. In addition to surveying topics in ethics, the purpose of the course is to introduce students to methods of philosophical investigation into normative matters and develop their ability to critically assess arguments and theses available in the philosophical literature as well as to hone their own thoughts on the issues.

Core Curriculum Learning Goal: This course meets goal ‘o’: ‘Examine critically, philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of reality, human experience, knowledge, value, and/or cultural production.’ Assessment will be by an SAS generic rubric embedded in the evaluation criteria laid out in this syllabus.

Assessment

Student grades will be determined based on performance on **two in class exams**, **four reading response assignments**, and **attendance and participation** in class discussion. The exams will involve a combination of short and extended response questions. The reading response papers are short writing assignments pertaining to the assigned readings. The purpose of the response papers is to develop the students’ critical reading skills. Participation is by necessity a bit more subjective. Full credit will require more than just showing up to each class. Everyone is expected to participate in discussions throughout the semester. Of course, you need not have something to say in every class; just try to contribute. One of the best ways to develop an understanding of the material is to actively engage in class discussion.

Further details regarding the assessment criteria, including a grading rubric for the reading responses, are available on the course website. Late assignments will be accepted only if the instructor is given notice prior to the due date.

Grade breakdown

Assignment	Due date and time	Contribution to final grade
Midterm exam	March 7 in class	30%
Final exam	May 2 in class	30%
Reading responses	Various	30%
Participation	Throughout	10%

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University's [Absence Reporting Website](#) to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Academic integrity

You must abide by the University's [Academic Integrity Policy](#). The basic guideline is that credit should be given where credit is due. If you have any uncertainty regarding an issue of academic integrity, please contact me about it.

Course schedule

An outline of the topics to be discussed can be found on the course website under the [Course plan concept map](#) tab. A schedule of due dates can be found in the resources tab under the heading “class assessment and schedule”.