

OXFORD COLLEGE
INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS

Philosophy 115 WS
Spring 2004
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This course will be an introduction to the philosophy of ethics. We will examine in some detail the thought of four extremely influential thinkers – Aristotle, Kant, Mill, and Nietzsche – and consider how their ethical theories might be exemplified in or reflected upon through your service. The four philosophers present very different systems of ethical thought and with respect to these systems we will address the broad issues of what morality means and what constitutes a moral or ethical existence. Additionally, we will spend a significant portion of our time discussing the ethical implications of your service assignments.

Texts:

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*
Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*
Mill, *Utilitarianism*
Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*

Requirements:

- 1) Brief commentary (approximately 350 words) due every Tuesday. These commentaries will attempt to apply the ideas of the philosophers to concrete ethical matters and service: 10% total
- 2) Three short essays of 4-5 pages each: 15% each.
- 3) Two exams: mid-term and final.
- 4) Class participation is essential and **will** figure into the final grade.

More than two absences **will** negatively affect your grade. See reverse.

The **honor code** is in effect at all times and must be adhered to for each assignment. The code and its application to particular assignments will be discussed in class.