

OXFORD COLLEGE
INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS

Philosophy 115 WS
Fall 2000
Dr. Ken Anderson
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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 in depth a contemporary ethical issue, the implications of evolutionary theory on ethics. 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.

Texts:

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*
Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*
Mill, *Utilitarianism*
Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*
Nitecki, *Evolutionary Ethics*
Harvey, *Writing with Sources*

Requirements:

- 1) Brief commentary due every Tuesday. These commentaries will attempt to apply the ideas of the philosophers to concrete ethical matters.
- 2) Three short essays of 3-5 pages each.
- 3) One longer essay of 8-10 pages.
- 4) Two exams: mid-term and final.

Class participation is also **highly** encouraged and **will** figure into the final grade.

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

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.

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