

Kishwaukee College
PHIL 200 - Ethics
(3 credit hours)
PHIL 200 – 5003

Wednesdays 6:00pm – 8:40pm
Room U302
1/12/2010 – 5/11/2010
Instructor: Michael Sturm
Office: U216
Office Hours: Tue 5pm-6pm & by appointment
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Course Description

A study of the principal ethical theories and concepts of human conduct and character, as well as a critical evaluation of these theories and concepts as they apply to particular moral problems and issues. Three hours lecture/discussion a week. **IAI: H4 904**

Course Objectives:

- To introduce you to the main issues, theories, and problems of ethics.
- To encourage reflection upon moral problems that affect you and/or society at large.
- To foster a critical mind through the analysis of texts and difficult cases involving moral issues.
- To enable you to participate in ongoing and new debates about contemporary moral issues.

Text

(EMP) Rachels, James. (2010). *The Elements of Moral Philosophy (6th ed.)*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

(RTD) Rachels, James. (2010). *The Right Thing to Do (5th ed.)*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Required Student Materials

Students are expected to have their textbooks (both of them) with them during every class period, unless otherwise instructed. Additional materials needed for taking notes (notebook, paper, laptop, etc.) are also encouraged.

Breakdown of Course Requirements

Participation.....	50pts
Quizzes (5).....	50pts.
Midterm Exam.....	100pts.
Final Exam.....	100pts.
Paper1.....	75pts.
Paper2.....	75pts.
Total Possible.....	450pts.

Final Grade Determination

405 – 450 =	A
360 – 404 =	B
315 – 359 =	C
270 – 314 =	D
0 – 269 =	F

Other Course Requirements

Participation

In a substantial majority of cases, the more that you participate actively in a debate, the more you learn about the topic of said debate. Philosophy, if nothing else, is all about debates. There are at least two conflicting answers to each question that philosophers have asked and do ask, and there is very little consensus as to which answers are correct. Furthermore, Philosophy takes reality itself as its subject matter. Thus, if you have opinions about reality, then you have Philosophical stances.

That being said, a small portion of your grade will be based on participation. This requirement is not just so that I have more ways to grade you, but it will also help your classmates. The more you participate, the larger the debate grows, and the larger the debate, the more things you and your classmates have to talk about. In other words, get involved, it helps all of us (even me)!

Distractions

Cell phones and portable computers are allowed in class, but must be silent. Text messaging during class is strongly discouraged. If you are in class, you are obviously paying for the course. If you choose to pay for the course, but distract yourself by texting during class, you are wasting both your time *and* your money.

Respect

In an effort to foster an environment of mutual respect and equality, I ask that we all refer to one another as either Mr. _____ or Ms. _____. This will ensure that we are all

equally respectful of one another, and receptive to each other's ideas. Name tags will be distributed if necessary.

Make-Up Policy

There will be no make-up quizzes, as quizzes will be random and used as an indicator of class attendance. Test dates are included in the syllabus; if a student will not be able to make it to class on one of those days, he or she must meet with me in advance to set up an alternative date to take the exam. Make-up tests for *unexpected* absences will only be given in the event of an emergency, proof of which must be provided by the student.

Learning Skills Center (A-330)

Tutoring and testing is available to all Kishwaukee students free of charge. Students must present their Kishwaukee College student ID when using any Learning Skills Center services. No appointment is necessary for assistance in English. For more information on the Learning Skills Center go to www.kishwaukeecollege.edu/learning_skills_center.

The Writing Center (A-306) answers your writing-related questions regardless of the class or assignment. No appointment is necessary, and students can get help individually or in small groups. Also available are workshop opportunities for any size group.

Withdrawal Policy

A "W" will not be given as a final grade. The student is responsible for officially withdrawing from the class according to procedures described in the college catalog. Any student that does not officially withdraw from the class will receive a letter grade. The last date for withdrawal for this course can be found at "MY CLASS SCHEDULE" on KishSOS.

Class Cancellations

Class Cancellations due to inclement weather will be announced on local radio stations and/or posted on the College website: www.kishwaukeecollege.edu, students may also call the College at (815) 825-2086. Class cancellations due to instructor absence will be posted on the classroom door and posted at www.kishwaukeecollege.edu/class_cancellations. Room changes will be announced in advance whenever possible and posted on the classroom door.

Emergency Procedures/Safety

Yellow and red *Emergency Information Flip Charts* are located in each classroom. These are quick references sheets with telephone numbers to reach emergency assistance and a brief description of the correct actions to take in the event of a tornado, fire, or other emergency on campus.

Graduation Requirements for Transfer Degree Students

As part of the assessment program, students intending to graduate with an A.A., A.E.S., A.F.A., or A.S. are required to submit a Degree Portfolio. Information on the degree portfolio can be found at www.kishwaukeecollege.edu/portfolio.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is essential in a college community. In order to evaluate student work, faculty must be able to trust that the work is the original work of a student and not the work of someone else. Plagiarism, cheating, or other dishonest actions will not be tolerated, and the penalties for such actions are at the discretion of the instructor. A complete explanation of the policy and procedures surrounding academic honesty are outlined in the Kishwaukee College Catalog.

Copyright

As a Kishwaukee College Student, you may have software made available to you by the college for course use. Please understand that copyright law may prohibit copying these materials. Violation of copyright laws can lead to prosecution for a criminal offense.

Assistive Resources Center/Disability Services

Any student having a documented disability or special learning need and wanting to request accommodations should contact the Coordinator in A 317 or at (815) 825-2086 Ext 396 (v), (815) 825-9106 (TTY), or send an e-mail to awilson@kishwaukeecollege.edu. The student's disability must impact their ability to participate in the educational environment and be documented by an appropriate professional prior to accommodations being approved.

Student E-mail

Your Kishwaukee College e-mail account will be the only way to receive official notices from the college. If you choose to forward your e-mail to another account, please be advised that all communication from and within the college will use your Kishwaukee student e-mail. When communicating with instructors or employees of the college, you are required to use your Kishwaukee e-mail address.

BlackBoard Course Website

We will be using BlackBoard online software for this course. All course announcements and changes will be available there, as well as documents, notes, media, and other goodies. If you are enrolled in the course, you can log on to BlackBoard. The website is:

<https://online.kishwaukeecollege.edu/>

You will need your KishID and password to log in. If you do not know these, contact the Helpdesk:

helpdesk@kishwaukeeecollege.edu

or

(815) 825-2086, extension 4357

Tentative Course Outline

1/12

Introduction. Distribute syllabus. The subject matter of Ethics, and making ethical arguments (derived from *Elements* Ch.2)

1/19

What is morality? Basic questions and (answers?) of Ethics and Moral Philosophy.

EMP ch. 1; *RTD* Ch. 1

Relativism and its impact on Ethics.

EMP ch. 2; *RTD* Ch.

1/26

Subjectivism and Emotivist theories in Ethics.

EMP ch. 3; *RTD* Ch. 6

2/9

Two extremes; Religious Morality and Egoism

EMP ch. 4 – 5

2/16

Contractualism and it's development. Also; a brief foray into Political Philosophy.

EMP ch. 6; additional reading from Scanlon's *What We Owe to Each Other* and Rawls' *A Theory of Justice*.

2/23

Utilitarianism: For

EMP ch. 7; *RTD* ch. 3

Utilitarianism: Against

EMP ch. 8; *RTD* ch. 5

3/2 Mid-Term Exam

3/9 No class; Spring Break!!

3/16 *1st Paper Due by 9pm*

Deontology and Kantian Ethics.

EMP ch. 9 - 10

3/23

Alternatives; Feminism, Virtue Ethics, and the Ethics of Care

EMP ch. 11-12; *RTD* ch. 8 & 10

3/30

Prospects for a Workable Moral Theory *and* The Realm of Political Philosophy

EMP ch. 13; Additional Readings TBA

4/6

Race and Racism.

RTD 31-33; Selection from Appiah's "Racisms"

4/13

Animals and Ethics

RTD 14-16;

4/20

Terrorism and Power of Rhetoric

RTD ch. 19, 21, 22

4/27

Euthanasia and Death

RTD ch.34-35

5/4 2nd Paper Due

Moral Grab Bag and Paradoxes

5/11 Final Exam, no lesson