



Course Syllabus
Fall 2021

ETHICS
PHIL-2033

Contact Information

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Course Description

This course will introduce students to major ideas in philosophical ethics. By reading major texts from the history of philosophy, we will be interested in how various thinkers have sought to comprehend topics such as the nature of the good, the virtues of moral conduct, the standards of ethical judgment, the role of freedom in human action, the responsibility of an individual to others, the basic tenets of a just society, and so on. To demonstrate that this historical approach ought not relegate ethics simply to old academic questions, we will also take a “problems” approach that will allow us to test the applicability of these ideas to our everyday lives. As a result, this course has two main outcomes: (1) students will finish this course with an intimate familiarity with major primary texts and central ethical ideas from the history of philosophy, and (2) students will be able to think more critically about the ethical issues they face in their daily and professional lives.

Required Texts

- Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*. Trans. Bartlett & Collins. University of Chicago Press, 2012.
- Kant, Immanuel. *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1993.
- Mill, John Stuart. *Utilitarianism*, 2nd Edition. Ed. George Sher. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2001.
- Additional required readings will be posted to D2L for students to download.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2017-18](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Enrollment in *any* college class comprises a binding social contract, which includes a respect for every student’s right to learn. Conduct that diminishes the quality of other students’ learning will not be tolerated. Every student is expected to engage with the course material in a responsible and respectful manner. Sleeping or chatting in class, coming unprepared, projecting disengagement, texting, doing another course’s work—all of these actions *directly* disrespect the material and imply an unwillingness to take seriously the privileges of being able to learn in a college classroom.

Students are expected to uphold the standards of “Academic Integrity” set forth by the [MSU Student Honor Creed](#). The instructor will notify the appropriate authority of any infringement of academic honesty.

“Cheating” includes the unauthorized use of certain information, materials, or devices in exams, papers, or assignments. Additionally, grading will abide by the University’s plagiarism policy.

“Plagiarism” includes but is not limited to using the published or unpublished works of another person without recognition, either by paraphrase or direct quotation. The use of materials generated by agencies engaged in “selling” term papers is also plagiarism.

A student who makes use of plagiarized material, or anyone that profits from (or abets) cheating, will be DISMISSED from the course. Cases will also be referred to the Dean of Students for possible dismissal from the university.

Please visit the Office of Student Conduct for more information about guidelines regarding Academic Dishonesty, its prevention, and the procedures for its prosecution.

Grading

Table 1: Final grades for the course will be determined according to the following distribution:

Assignments	Weight
Engagement	10%
Quiz average	20%
Exam 1	30%
Exam 2	40%

Table 2: Grades will be administered on an A-F scale according to the following percentages:

Grade	Value
A	100-90
B	89-80
C	79-70
D	69-60
F	59-0

Quizzes

Routine quizzes will be administered via D2L throughout the semester. Quizzes ensure that students keep pace with the syllabus. For this reason, quizzes will be based entirely off of class readings and lectures. Quiz dates are marked on the course schedule. When quiz averages are calculated for the final course grade, the lowest single quiz grade will be dropped. Quizzes will be comprised of a single multiple-choice question pulled randomly from a larger “pool” of available questions. Each quiz will be available for students to take between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on the date posted on the schedule. Missed quizzes cannot be taken after the deadline.

Exams

Two exams will be administered throughout the semester. Exams will not be cumulative and will cover material discussed and prepared in class. Exams will be posted for students to download, complete, and return to the appropriate Assignments dropbox in D2L. These dropboxes are equipped with plagiarism detection software.

Extra Credit

No extra credit will be accepted in this course. Students are therefore encouraged to keep pace with the syllabus from the start of the semester to avoid a situation in which extra credit would be desired.

Make Up Work/Tests

Quizzes cannot be made up retroactively. All assignments are organized to accommodate various work and travel schedules. Unforeseen, exceptional circumstances that prevent a student from taking a *test* will require credible documentation *at that time* to make-up the assignment.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to complete all of the course modules. The instructor receives a report form D2L of which students completed which modules when. This counts as your “attendance.” Other forms of engagement include participation in the online discussion and question boards – both as original posters, as interlocutors in discussions, and as respondents to fellow students’ questions.

Instructor Class Policies

Help — Students should discuss any concerns with the instructor as soon as possible. Many of the readings will be difficult, so *please* ask questions in class for clarification. Office hours are available in person or via videoconferencing by appointment. An appointment is not required for in-person office hours consultation, but please opt for videoconferencing if you are feeling ill.

Technology — As an online course, internet access and technological capabilities (internet, D2L, microphone, webcam) are required and it is the student’s responsibility to ensure reliable access.

Recordings — Lectures, lecture notes, assignments, etc. remain the intellectual property of the instructor. Students are not permitted to disseminate the content of our online class outside D2L.

Conduct — Actions that diminish the quality of other students’ learning will not be tolerated. Insults, slurs, or attacks of any kind will be grounds for permanent removal from the course. Every student is expected to engage with the course material in a responsible and respectful manner. This includes basic etiquette during videoconferencing sessions. To avoid distractions, students are expected to be fully dressed, seated, and presentable on camera.

Email — Check emails regularly, since that will be the only method by which students are informed about class cancellations or any changes to the course. Your instructor will email you via D2L. Therefore, either make sure you check your D2L email regularly, or change the settings of your D2L inbox to reroute your D2L emails to a preferred email address. When emailing your professors, please ensure that proper etiquette and professionalism is being observed. Always check the syllabus and the course schedule first to ensure that any questions are not already answered there. Your instructor will not respond at length to emails about writing assignments after the assignment has been posted. Please allow 24 hours for an email reply.

Disability Support Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to <http://www.mwsu.edu/student-life/disability>.

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Changes to Syllabus

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. All details of any changes made to the course will be made available to students via email.

Mandatory Reporting

Under Title IX, all MSU faculty are “mandatory reporters” of any disclosure from a student of sexual assault, abuse, harassment, dating violence, stalking, or other forms of sexual misconduct. It is the legal responsibility of a “mandatory reporter” to notify the Title IX coordinator if a student reports being the victim of any of the aforementioned abuses. For more information, please visit the [Sexual Misconduct Resource](#).

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. However, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies — Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy — College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy — To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity.

Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Course Schedule

WEEK ONE: August 23-27

Monday: Module 1: Course Introduction
Wednesday: Module 1: Thought experiments overview
Friday: Module 2: **Week One scenario assessments due**

WEEK TWO: August 30 – September 3

Monday: Module 3: Divine Command Theory—Plato’s *Euthyphro* (recommended, PDF)
Wednesday: Module 4: Singer *The Life You Can Save* (PDF)
Friday: Module 5: John Stuart Mill’s *Utilitarianism* pp. 6-12 **Quiz 1**

WEEK THREE: September 6-10

Monday: No module: Labor Day
Wednesday: Module 6: John Stuart Mill’s *Utilitarianism* pp. 12-20
Friday: Module 6: John Stuart Mill’s *Utilitarianism* pp. 20-26. **Quiz 2**

WEEK FOUR: September 13-17

Monday: Module 7: John Stuart Mill’s *Utilitarianism* pp. 27-34
Wednesday: Module 7: John Stuart Mill’s *Utilitarianism* pp. 27-34 continued
Friday: Module 8: John Stuart Mill’s *Utilitarianism* pp. 35-41. **Quiz 3**

WEEK FIVE: September 20-24

Monday: Module 9: Deontological moral theory overview (no new reading due)
Wednesday: Module 10: Immanuel Kant “A Supposed Right to Lie” in *Grounding* pp. 63-67
Friday: Module 11: Kant *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals* pp. 1-5. **Quiz 4**

WEEK SIX: September 27 – October 1

Monday: Module 12: Kant *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals* pp. 7-17
Wednesday: Module 12: Kant *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals* pp. 7-17 continued
Friday: Module 13: Kant *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals* pp. 12-23. **Quiz 5**

WEEK SEVEN: October 4-8

Monday: Module 14: Kant *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals* pp. 23-30
Wednesday: Module 14: Kant *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals* pp. 23-30 cont’d
Friday: Module 15: Kant *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals* pp. 30-42. **Quiz 6**

WEEK EIGHT: October 11-15

Monday: No module: Optional review session
Wednesday: No module: **Exam #1 due by 11:59 p.m.**
Friday: Module 16: Ethical Egoism—Plato’s *Ring of Gyges* myth (PDF)

WEEK NINE: October 18-22

Monday: Module 17: Contractarian moral theory overview (no reading due)
Wednesday: Module 17: Hobbes *Leviathan* ch. XIII (PDF)
Friday: Module 17: Hobbes *Leviathan* ch. XIV (PDF). **Quiz 7**

WEEK TEN: October 25-29

Monday: Module 18: Rousseau *The Social Contract* (PDF)
Wednesday: Module 19: Sandel "The Case for Equality: John Rawls" (PDF)
Friday: Module 19: Rawls and Egalitarianism, continued (no reading due). **Quiz 8**

WEEK ELEVEN: November 1-5

Monday: Module 20: Scenario: Arguing Affirmative Action (video)
Wednesday: Module 21: Scenario: "Markets and Morals" (PDF)
Friday: Module 22: Scenario: Ethical Consumerism (video)

WEEK TWELVE: November 8-12

Monday: Module 23: Aristotle *Nicomachean Ethics* book I
Wednesday: Module 23: Aristotle *Nicomachean Ethics* book I continued
Friday: Module 24: Aristotle *Nicomachean Ethics* book II **Quiz 9**

WEEK THIRTEEN: November 15-19

Monday: Module 25: Aristotle *Nicomachean Ethics* book III
Wednesday: Module 25: Aristotle *Nicomachean Ethics* book III continued.
Friday: Module 26: Aristotle *Nicomachean Ethics* book VIII **Quiz 10**

WEEK FOURTEEN: November 22-26

Monday: No module: Integrated flex day for catchup
Wednesday: No class: Holiday Break.
Friday: No class: Holiday Break.

WEEK FIFTEEN: November 29 – December 3

Monday: No module: Final exam goes live
Wednesday: No module: Course reflection discussion board post (optional)
Friday: No module: Optional review session

Exam #2 due in the appropriate D2L dropbox no later than 11:59 p.m. on December 7