

Ethics (ἠθική)

PHIL 2033 Syllabus

Midwestern State University/Founders Classical Academy of Lewisville (Dual Credit)

Dr. Tutuska

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"The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either—but right through every human heart—and through all human hearts"
-Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, *The Gulag Archipelago*

Course Description:

What is a life well lived? What does it mean to have a well-ordered soul? In this course we will think through the sources and basic structures of the moral life, of right and wrong, good and evil. We will work to understand the rational basis for morality, comparing and evaluating different answers that have been offered to this question. *Can* one rationally understand morality? Is it based on feelings and opinions or something more? What is the place of the virtues in the moral life? How does morality relate to human happiness and fulfillment? What is the place of love (in its different forms) in human life? Such questions will provide the basic structure and agenda of the course.

Texts:

Moral Philosophy Readings Packets
The Four Loves by C.S. Lewis

Grading:

Grades will be weighted as follows:

Participation	25%
Tests, Major assignments	50%
In-class writings, Quizzes, Miscellaneous	25%

Class Participation:

Philosophy requires us to actively engage in asking and solving questions. Participation is graded on multiple factors: (1) quality of contributions to daily in-class discussion (asking relevant questions, answering questions, sharing insights); (2) frequency of your contributions to daily in-class class discussion; (3) signs of careful and attentive listening, whether to the teacher or to fellow students (includes note-taking); (4) focus and diligence in performing all in-class assignments.

Materials:

You should come each day with a writing notebook, and have an orderly system (three-ring binder or folder) to keep all handouts.

Procedures and Policies:

- **Late Work and Absences:** Students are expected to complete and turn in assignments in good order and on time. Late work is not accepted for daily assignments; if a student does not have his homework when due, he receives a zero. Major assignments with test weighting will be penalized 20% for each day late and will only be accepted on the next two school days. Regarding valid absences, students will be allowed one extra day for each day missed to turn in work that was assigned while absent (for example, if a student is absent two days, the relevant work will be due two days after he or she returns).
- **If absent,** it is the student's responsibility, on the day of return, to see the teacher to get all assignments/materials, and to get notes from fellow classmates.
- **For tests and quizzes that are missed,** the student must arrange a time to make these up on the day of return. (If the student had advance notice of the test or quiz, the default is for the assessment to be taken on the day the student returns; individual circumstances can affect this, however.)
- **Quality of Work:** All assignments (classwork, homework, assessments, and papers) must be written neatly and legibly. Ripped, torn, or scribbled-on paper will not be accepted. Paper torn out of a spiral notebook is not acceptable. Lined notebook paper/loose-leaf paper is required for all upper school assignments unless specifically directed by the teacher.
- **Extra credit:** Extra credit will not be given to compensate for negligence.
- **Extensions:** If a student needs an extension or help completing an assignment, he or she must request it in advance. A signed note from a parent or doctor may also gain an extension.

Plagiarism/Cheating:

Academic dishonesty, cheating and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Cheating takes place when a student copies the work of another or allows someone to copy one's own work, or when he or she uses unauthorized aids during assignments or assessments. Plagiarism occurs when a person uses someone else's words or ideas and presents them as one's own (typically on an essay or paper). Student cheating or plagiarism will result in short term consequences, a grade penalty, a meeting with parents, and a discipline consequence. Academic dishonesty will also have long term consequences related to virtue, vice, habit, and destiny. Earning a lower score on an assignment or test is preferable to

downgrading one's character. Refer to page five of the campus handbook for details about academic dishonesty.

Further, note that the default is for all assignments to be worked on individually; there should be no collaboration on any assigned work unless permission is directly granted.

Detach and return this page with needed signatures.

Certificate of Acceptance:

I have read and understood all the directions and expectations given in this syllabus for Dr. Tutuska's class, and I acknowledge and accept them. (Tear off and return this page only.)

Student Name (Printed):

Student Signature (Cursive):

Parent Name (Printed):

Parent Signature(s):

Date: _____

Receipt of this signed page by the third day of class (Friday, 8/12/22) counts as a quiz grade.