



Course Syllabus
Spring 2022

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	15%
Quiz average	10%
Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Exam 3	25 %

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 until midnight on the date posted on the schedule. Missed quizzes cannot be taken after the deadline.

Exams

Three 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 throughout the week. An appointment is not required for office hours consultation, since they’re “drop-in” hours. Appointments can also be made on a case-by-case basis.

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.

Deadlines – Exams submitted late will accrue a late penalty of one-third of a letter grade per day.

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) exists 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: January 10-14

Monday: Course Introduction and Thought Experiments overview
Wednesday: In-class scenario analyses (no reading due)
Friday: **Week One scenario assessments due in D2L dropbox**

WEEK TWO: January 17-21

Monday: MLK Day: No class
Wednesday: Divine Command Theory overview (no reading due)
Friday: Singer *The Life You Can Save* (PDF) **Quiz 1**

WEEK THREE: January 24-28

Monday: John Stuart Mill's *Utilitarianism* pp. 6-12
Wednesday: John Stuart Mill's *Utilitarianism* pp. 12-20
Friday: John Stuart Mill's *Utilitarianism* pp. 20-26. **Quiz 2**

WEEK FOUR: January 31-February 4

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

WEEK FIVE: February 7-11

Monday: Optional review session
Wednesday: **Exam #1 due by 11:59 p.m. in the appropriate D2L dropbox**
Friday: Deontological moral philosophy overview (no reading due)

WEEK SIX: February 14-18

Monday: Immanuel Kant "A Supposed Right to Lie" in *Grounding* pp. 63-67
Wednesday: Immanuel Kant "A Supposed Right to Lie" continued
Friday: Kant *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals* pp. 1-5. **Quiz 4**

WEEK SEVEN: February 21-25

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

WEEK EIGHT: February 28-March 4

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

WEEK NINE: March 7-11

Monday: Optional review session
Wednesday: **Exam #2 due by 11:59 p.m. in the appropriate D2L dropbox**
Friday: Ethical Egoism—Plato's *Ring of Gyges* myth (PDF)

WEEK TEN: March 14-18

SPRING BREAK

WEEK ELEVEN: March 21-25

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

WEEK TWELVE: March 28-April 1

Monday: Rawls and Egalitarianism (PDF)
Wednesday: Rawls and Egalitarianism, continued (no reading due)
Friday: Dilemmas of Loyalty (PDF) **Quiz 8**

WEEK THIRTEEN: April 4-8

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

WEEK FOURTEEN: April 11-15

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

WEEK FIFTEEN: April 18-22

Monday: Markets and Morals (PDF)
Wednesday: Ethical consumerism: *The True Cost* (link available on D2L)
Friday: In-class moral scenario group debate (no reading due) **Quiz 11**

WEEK SIXTEEN: April 25-29

Monday: In-class moral scenario group debate (no reading due)
Wednesday: Optional review session
Friday: **Exam #3 due by 11:59 p.m. in the appropriate D2L dropbox**