

Skidmore College
Department of Philosophy & Religion
Syllabus

Ethics
12:40-2:00

Fall, 2010
Reg Lilly

This course introduces participants to the field of ethics, that branch of philosophy that deals with the conduct of one's life. We will be reading original documents in the history of philosophy that have been foundational for the reflection on ethics. Our main objective will be to become familiar with principle ethical theories developed through the course of history. The last section of the course will be spent considering various ethics problems to which one can apply these ethical theories.

Required Texts

1. *Ethics: Contemporary Theory, and Contemporary Issues*, ed. Steven M Cahn & Peter Markie
2. Handouts

9/7 Introduction

Ethics of Virtue

9/9 Aristotle, pp 124-134
9/14 Aristotle, pp. 134-146
9/16 Aristotle, pp. 146-157
9/21 Aristotle, pp. 157-169 (First paper assigned)
9/23 Nussbaum, pp. 704-721.
9/28 TBA **Paper assigned**

Deontological Ethics

9/30 Kant, pp. 280-285 (left column).
10/5 Kant, pp. 285-289 (First paper due)
10/7 Kant, pp 289-292 (left column)
10/12 Kant, pp. 292-297
10/14 Kant, pp. 297-306
10/19 Korsgaard, pp. 683-696; Nagel, pp. 752-750
10/21 **Midterm**

Consequentialist Ethics

- 10/26 Bentham/Mill pp. 319-330
- 10/28 Mill pp. 330-344
- 11/2 Mill pp. 344-360
- 11/4 Baier, 476-491
- 11/9 Camus/Sartre pp. 397-412
- 11/11 Held, pp. 724-39 (**Paper Assigned**)

Applied Ethics

- 11/16 Applied Ethics, TBA
- 11/18 Applied Ethics, TBA (**Paper Due**)
- 11/ 23 Applied Ethics, TBA

Thanksgiving

- 11/30 Applied Ethics, TBA
- 12/2 Applied Ethics, TBA
- 127 Applied Ethics, TBA
- 12/9 Applied Ethics, TBA

GRADING

There will be two papers and two exams, which will be equally weighted. Each will be worth 22.5% of the final grade. Participation will count 10% of the final grade.

Contact Information

Office Hours TUTH 2:00-3:00; W 1:30-4:00 and by appointment.
Ladd 218; Phone x5406; Email rlilly