

Skidmore College
Department of Philosophy & Religion
Syllabus

Ethics
12:40-2:00

Spring, 2010
Reg Lilly

This course introduces participants to the field of ethics. Part of the philosophical project over the last 2400 years has been to determine exactly what ‘ethics’ is all about. 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. We will spend the last few weeks of the course reading essays in ‘applied ethics’ – ethical theories applied to various ethical and moral problems.

Required Text: *Ethics: Contemporary Theory, and Contemporary Issues*, ed. Steven M Cahn & Peter Markie

- 1/26 Introduction
- 1/28 Apology, pp. 16-26 (30d)
- 2/2 Apology, pp. 26-33
- 2/4 Aristotle, pp 124-134
- 2/9 Aristotle, pp. 134-146
- 2/11 Aristotle, pp. 146-157
- 2/16 Aristotle, pp. 157-169 (First paper assigned)
- 2/18 Kant, pp. 280-285 (left column).
- 2/23 Kant, pp. 285-289 (First paper due)
- 2/25 No Class
- 3/2 Kant, pp 289-292 (left column)
- 3/4 Kant, pp. 292-297
- 3/9 Kant, pp. 297-306
- 3/11 **Midterm**
- 3/16 Spring Break
- 3/18 Spring Break
- 3/23 Bentham/Mill pp. 319-330
- 4/1 Bentham pp. 330-344
- 4/8 Mill pp. 344-360
- 4/13 Camus/Sartre pp. 397-412

4/15 Held, pp. 724-739. (Second paper assigned)
4/20 TBA
4/22 TBA (Second Paper due)
4/27 TBA
4/29 TBA
5/4 TBA

Grading

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

Contact Information

Office Hours TUTH 11:30-12:30; 2:00-3:30; W 12:00-2:00 and by appointment.
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