**PHIL 2310: THEORY OF ETHICS**

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

PHIL 2310-114 Fall 2017, Tues & Thurs 11:00a-12:15a in David Straz Hall 456

PHIL 2310-119 Fall 2017, Tues & Thurs 3:30p-4:45p in David Straz Hall 456

PROFESSOR: Mr. Brett Yardley OFFICE HOURS: T/TR at i) 12:15-1:15p in 441 Marquette Hall

EMAIL: [brett.yardley@marquette.edu](mailto:brett.yardley@marquette.edu) at ii) 3:00p-3:30p in Straz Hall main floor, or iii) by appointment.

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Theory of Ethics is an investigation into the moral dimension of human life. Among the topics to be considered are the norms of morality and the general process of moral decision-making. Traditional natural law will be one of the points among ethical relativism, Mill’s utilitarianism, Kant’s deontology, and Aristotle’s Virtue Ethics, along with a significant alternative to traditional Western ethics, such as feminist work in ethics, as it relates to Western ethics. (Fulfills a UCCS and Arts & Sciences College Curriculum requirement for Human Nature and Ethics; and fulfills a requirement for the Philosophy major and minor.)

1. TEXTS
   1. **Required Textbooks:**

1) “DE” - Waluchow, Wilfrid J. *The Dimensions of Ethics: An Introduction to Ethical Theory*. Peterborough, Ont: Broadview Press, 2003. ISBN – 1-55111-450-X

2) “ET” - Geirsson, Heimir, and Margaret R. Holmgren. *Ethical Theory: A Concise Anthology*. Peterborough, Ont: Broadview Press, 2010. ISBN - 978-1-55481-015-4

* 1. **Other Required Readings:**

(ARES) Additional required readings in the form of URLs or PDFs as listed in the reading schedule will be made available via ARES reserves system located at <http://www.marquette.edu/library/> >> “Your Accounts” >> “Logon to ARES” OR <https://marquette.ares.atlas-sys.com/ares/ares.dll>. Use your MarqNet logon and password. Select and unlock the course using the password: “Plato”

1. KNOWLEDGE AREA OUTCOMES:

Phil 2310 is one of the two courses in the Human Nature and Ethics knowledge area. The Learning Outcomes of this knowledge area are the following: At the completion of core studies the student will be able to:

* + - * Assess views of human nature in various philosophical traditions, including classic Greek and Catholic philosophical traditions.
      * Argue for one of the major ethical theories over another in terms of philosophical cogency and practical outcome.
      * Use philosophical reasoning to develop the student’s own position on central issues in human nature and ethics, for example, the relation between mind and body, the problem of freedom and determinism, the spiritual and affective dimensions of human life, the extent of human knowledge, the justification of moral judgments, and the elucidation of moral norms.

1. COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course,

1. The students will be able to state and provide reasons for the basic positions of the major philosophical theories of Western ethics, including virtue theory, natural law theory, deontology, and consequentialism/utilitarianism.

2. The student will be able to state and provide reasons for principle objections to major Western ethical theories, including ethical egoism and various forms of moral relativism.

3. The student will be able to discuss a significant alternative to traditional Western ethics as it relates to Western ethics.

4. The student will be able to compare and contrast positions of the ethical theories studied in the course.

5. The student will be able to take and defend a position in ethics that addresses significant objections to the position.

**Objectives #1, 2, and 3, will be assessed in four ways:** **as assessed through online reading quizzes, class discussion, exams, and “Cogitation Logic” reflection essays.**

**Objective #4 & #5 will be assessed via essay questions on exams and two argued position papers.**

RELATION BETWEEN COURSE OBJECTIVES AND AREA OUTCOMES

1. Although the five learning objectives of the course are closely interconnected, numbers 4 and 5 above will mostly satisfy the second outcome. By reflecting on how ethics has been conceived and comparing different views, students will be able to argue for one of the major ethical theories over another.
2. In numbers 1 to 3 above students analyze and criticize the basic components of ethical theories and this will satisfy the third outcome: to use philosophical reasoning to develop the student’s own position on central issues in ethics.
3. Knowledge Area Outcome 1 does not apply to this course.
4. GRADING
   1. **Composition of Course & Final Grade**
      1. Quizzes & Exams (220 possible points)

Online Reading Quizzes [14 quizzes] x 5 possible points = 70

Takehome Midterm & Final Exam [2 Exams] x 75 possible points = 150

Cogitations (250 possible points)

Cogitation Workshop Summary [2 led online discussions] x 20 possible points =40

Online Workshop Participation [4 total online discussions] x 5 possible points = 20

Cogitation Logic [2 paragraphs] x 20 possible points = 40

Cogitation Final Paper [2 Essays] x 75 possible points = 150

Participation (30 possible points)

In-Class Participation [1 semester] x 10 possible points = 10

Online Participation [1 semester] x 20 possible points = 20

TOTAL possible points 500

* 1. **Course Grading Scale: Points**

A (4.00) = 94-100% 468-500  
A- (3.67) = 90-93% 448-467  
B+ (3.33) = 87-89% 433-447  
B (3.00) = 83-86% 413-432

B- (2.67) = 80-82% 398-412  
C+ (2.33) = 77-79% 383-397  
**Course Grading Scale: Points**  
C (2.00) = 73-76% 363-382  
C- (1.67) = 70-72% 348-362

D+ (1.33) = 67-69% 333-347

D (1.00) = 60-66% 298-332

F (0.00) = 00-59% 0 - 297

WF (0.00)

* + 1. On the Edge: If a student falls somewhere in-between grades, I round up at the half point mark (i.e., 82.49% = 82% & 82.50% = 83%). Positive participation will assist in this regard as well.
    2. Late Work: No late work is accepted. See me as soon as possible if a problem arises.
    3. **Disabilities:** Students with disabilities should see me ASAP. I will make accommodations as needed and work with you in any way necessary as long as it complies with university, college and department policy. Please consult the Office of Disability Services: (414)288-1645 located at 707 N. 11th Street. Room 503 or <http://www.marquette.edu/disability-services/>
  1. **Class Attendance, Punctuality and Participation**
     1. Attendance: In-class discussions and lectures are key to succeeding in this course. Reading the PPTs is not a suitable replacement to the accompanying explanation. An attendance sheet will be passed around at the beginning of each class.
     2. Life Happens: You may miss four (4) classes for any reason (I do not need doctor notes, etc.). One point will be deducted from class participation for each absence after the fourth.
     3. Punctuality: Arriving late to class is a distraction. If you arrive after class has begun, you may lose one (1) in-class participation point.
     4. Participation: Discussion is essential to a successful course. Involvement is expected of everyone.
* In-Class involvement: a) asking for clarification, b) asking relevant questions, c) answering questions, d) offering your perspective or thoughts. Several class discussions will allow for contributions to be submitted electronically using [CoverItLive](http://www.coveritlive.com/) for my fellow introverts.
* Online Involvement: Our class will become a mini-community working together to succeed in this course by participating in discussion forums (other than Cogitation Workshops) to: a) help fellow students with questions, b) consider the relevance of material to your major, c) provide content that makes the course more interesting. Posts of little significance such as “I agree!”, “I never thought of that” (i.e. could be summarized as ) are not considered participation.

Scoring will be based on both the quantity and quality of contributions:

0-25% - Little/no significant contribution

26-50% - Few/small contributions

51-75% - Semi-regular & meaningful contributions

76-100% - Regular & impactful contributions

Distractions: Keep in mind that disruptive or inappropriate behavior will have a negative impact on your grade. If you engage in any such behavior, your participation grade may be dropped by 1-2 points (not to exceed 0) based on the level of interruption for each instance of disruption.

Technology: Contrary to popular trends, recent studies have demonstrated that technology does not facilitate learning and only engenders distraction(s). Therefore, unless you are pre-approved due to a legitimate reason, **the use of electronic devices such as laptops, phones, tablets, or other device** **will be considered as a distraction** which may result in loss of one (1) participation point. Please see me if you feel this will be a problem. Neither audio nor video recordings are allowed. **Technology restrictions will be lifted for certain days and activities as notified** (such as CoverItLive discussions).

* 1. **Online Reading Quizzes**

A fully prepared and engaged mind is essential (*prior* to class) to understanding the material. Each week a quiz will be available on D2L (worth 4 points total) Mon-Wed consisting of multiple choice, T/F, and short answer covering the assigned readings/lectures. Quizzes are open book. Each quiz may be retaken 1x (questions are likely to change). Final score will be the average of both attempts.

* 1. **Take-home Exams**

The midterm and final exam will consist of two sections: a series of short answer questions (25 points) and two essays (25 points each) for a total of 75 points. Any material covered in the assigned readings or in-class lectures may appear on the examinations (the final will not be cumulative). A review period will precede the mid-term and the final exam and a list of potential essay questions will be provided in advance. Each exam will be made available via D2L and students will submit their exam to a TurnItIn enabled dropbox by the assigned deadline.

* 1. **Cogitations**

The key skill to learn in this course is to argue persuasively. You will be assigned TWO take home reflection essays. You will select one of the provided ethical questions and answer it using a logical argument. The assignment is broken into the following steps:

* + 1. Online Cogitation Workshop: You will be assigned to groups of 3 to participate in a total of 3 online discussions on D2L (for each cogitation) to workshop EACH of your cogitation arguments. Your group will decide when each person leads the discussion according to the schedule below.
* As the leader, you will be the discussion leader for 1 of the 3 discussions for each cogitation. As the leader you will submit the question you intend to answer, your proposed answer, and the logical argument you intend to use to achieve this answer. At the end of your assigned week you will submit a summary of the discussion to D2L regarding your cogitation proposal showing how your proposal began and was subsequently modified based on feedback (20 points).
* As a participant, you will provide helpful and detailed analyses of the leader’s presented argument; offer suggestions or reminders pertaining to lectures or readings; and remain involved by answering subsequent questions, providing clarification, etc. Participation will reflect in and be reported on the leader’s submitted summary. Participation in each of the discussion will amount to 5 points. See D2L for rubric & examples.
  + 1. Cogitation Logic: One week after submitting your Cogitation Workshop Summary, take what feedback and revisions you received and compose a short paragraph (150word minimum-200 word maximum) indicating your claim, the supporting argument’s structure and explain: key terms, which premise requires the most support and what materials from lectures and readings can be used to support it. For full points your Cogitation Logic must indicate that you have done the reading. Each Cogitation Logic is worth 20 points. See D2L for rubric & examples. Submit Cogitation Logic to a D2L dropbox**.**
    2. Written Cogitations: One weekafter submitting your Cogitation Logic you will submit no more than a 2 page, 1 inch margins, double-spaced (12pt Times New Roman) paper. It should be clear from the essay WHAT you believe and WHY you believe it. The short format is to ensure your thoughts are well formed and expressed concisely. You may even be forced to leave out good ideas or examples for the sake of brevity. Points will be deducted for each violation of the assignment’s parameters. I will not read a draft. See D2L for rubrc, examples and comment guide. **Cogitations are to be handed in via TurnItIn enabled D2L dropbox by midnight the day it’s due**.
  1. **Extra Credit**

Extra credit is not guaranteed, but may be made available during the semester. Extra Credit assignments typically include participating in a designated experimental research project or attending a designated campus event and writing a short summary.

1. ACADEMIC DISHONOESTY & MISCONDUCT POLICY
   1. In this course you will be required to submit written assignments in electronic form to a dropbox on D2L enabled with plagiarism detection service called **Turnitin**. Your assignments become a permanent part of the **Turnitin** database, but will not be used for any other purpose than checking for plagiarism.
   2. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, individual violations, helping another student with any form of academic misconduct, failing to report any form of academic misconduct, or intentionally interfering with the educational process in any manner. Faculty, staff or students who are aware of academic misconduct and fail to report it are considered complicit in these actions. If a student is in doubt as to whether an action or behavior is subject to the academic misconduct policy, he/she should consult an appropriate member of the Academic Integrity Council, faculty or staff. For more information visit the university website:  
      <http://bulletin.marquette.edu/undergrad/academicregulations/#academicintegrity>
   3. **Acts of academic misconduct include but are not limited to:**

**Cheating**1. Copying from others for an assignment and/or during an examination, test or quiz.  
2. Obtaining, or attempting to obtain, an assignment, examination, test, quiz, or answer key without authorization.  
3. Using unauthorized electronic devices or materials for an assignment, during an examination or quiz.  
4. Communicating answers or providing unauthorized assistance for an assignment, exam or quiz.  
5. Using unauthorized answers or assistance for an assignment, examination, test or quiz.  
6. Offering one’s own work to another person, or presenting another person’s work as one’s own.  
7. Completing an assignment and/or taking an examination, test or quiz for another student, or having someone complete an assignment, take an examination, test or quiz for oneself.  
8. Tampering with an assignment, examination, test or quiz after it has been graded, and then returning it for additional credit.  
9. Outsourcing assignments, papers, examinations, tests, quizzes to fellow students or third parties.  
10. Using purchased answers or selling answers to assignments, examinations, quizzes or papers.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is intellectual theft by the unethical use of sources. It means use of another’s creations or ideas without proper attribution. Credit must be given for every direct quotation, for paraphrasing or summarizing any part of a work and for any information that is not common knowledge. Plagiarism is further addressed in the Academic Integrity Tutorial.

**Academic Fraud such as:**

Submitting substantial portions of the same work for credit in more than one course, or from previous institutions, without receiving permission from all instructors involved.

1. LEARNING SCHEDULE

**NOTE 1: This schedule is TENTATIVE and is subject to change**

**NOTE 2: Readings are due by the day they appear BEFORE CLASS. Assignments are due by midnight**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week # & Start Date** | **Tuesday** | **Thursday** |
| **Introduction** | | |
| **1 (8-28)** | Syllabus Review  *Read the Syllabus! First Online Quiz (D2L)* | “What does it mean to be ethical?”  Hanoko & The Semantic Triangle  Basic Logic argumentation |
| Online Activity | Setup D2L, ARES, & download syllabus | Class input on Cogitation rubric:  <https://answergarden.ch/515278> |
| **Unit 1:** *Meta-ethics & Relativism* | | |
| **2 (9-4)**  Last day to drop/add 9-5 | Meta-Ethics Part 1  DE, 13-29 (16 pages) | Meta-Ethics Part 2  DE, 31-42 (11 pages) |
| Online Activity |  | *Dilemma! Siblings in France* |
| **3 (9-11)** | Relativism  DE, 65-81 (16 pages) | Objections to Relativism  DE, 81-93 (12 pages) |
| Online Activity | *Dilemma! Video: Hanoko in a Blender* |  |
| **4 (9-18)** | Egoism & Cogitation Review  ET, 61-73 (12 pages) Ring of Gyges | Social Contract  DE, 121-139 (18 pages) |
| Online Activity | *Dilemma! Video: Flight or Invisibility?*  **Online Discussion Round 1 begins Mon** | **Round 1 Leader Summary due at Midnight** |
| **5 (9-25)** | Rawls – Theory of Justice  ET, 246-258 (12 pages) | “Rights”  DE, 42-58 (16 pages) |
| Online Activity | *Dilemma! Video: The Original Position*  **Online Discussion Round 2 begins Mon** | **Round 1 “Cogitation Logic” 1 Due**  **Round 2 Leader Summary due** |
| **Unit 2:** Meta-ethics & The Divine | | |
| **6 (10-2)** | Divine Command Theory  DE, 95-103(8 pages) | Divine Command Theory  ET: 44-57 (13 pages) Euthyphro Dilemma |
| Online Activity | **Online Discussion Round 3 begins Mon** | **Round 1 Cogitation 1 Due by midnight**  **Round 2 “Cogitation Logic” 1 Due**  **Round 3 Leader Summary due** |
| **7 (10-9)** | Natural Law  DE, 103-119 (16 pages) | Aquinas: from “Treatise on Law”  ARES: 171-183 |
| Online Activity | *Dilemma! Video: Living in a Simulation?* | **Round 2 Cogitation 1 Due by midnight**  **Round 3 “Cogitation Logic” 1 Due** |
| **8 (10-16)** | Mid-Term Review  *Electronic Devices allowed!* | **NO CLASS – Fall Break**  10-24 Mid-Term Grades Submitted |
| Online Activity | No reading quiz this week | **Round 3 Cogitation 1 Due by midnight**  **MIDTERM DUE BY THURSDAY** **at Midnight** |

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| **Week # & Start Date** | **Tuesday** | **Thursday** |
| **Unit 3:** Normative Theories & Rational Principles | | |
| **9 (10-23)** | Deontology Intro & Free Will  ARES: SEP on Compatibilism Sections 1-3 (~12 Pages) | Mr. Oft video | Kantian Deontology  ET, 150-165 (15 pages) |
| Online Activity | *Dilemma! Video: Self-Defense & Euthanasia* |  |
| **10 (10-30)** | Kantian Deontology  DE, 173-186 (13 pages) | Kantian Deontology  Reread ET, 150-165 (15 pages) |
| Online Activity | *Dilemma! Video: Food Drive Volunteers*  **Online Discussion Round 1** | **Round 1 Leader Summary due** |
| **11 (11-6)**  Register for Spring 2018  PHIL courses! | Utilitarianism  ET, 90-98 (8 pages) John Stuart Mill  DE, 145-153 (8 pages) Intro to Utilitarianism | Objections to Utilitarianism  DE, 165-170 (5 pages)  “The Ones who walk away from Omelas”, ARES (4 pages) |
| Online Activity | *Dilemma! Video: Fire aboard & Organ Donor*  **Online Discussion Round 2** | *Dilemma! Video: The Experience Machine*  **Round 1 “Cogitation Logic” 2 due**  **Round 2 Leader Summary due** |
| **Unit 4:** Normative Theories & Being | | |
| **12 (11-13)**  Withdraw Deadline 17th | Virtue Ethics  DE, 201-212 (11 pages)  ET, 303-311 (8 pages) | Virtue Ethics  DE, 212-221 (9 pages)  ET, 311-320 (9 pages) |
| Online Activity | *Dilemma! Video: Moral Expert = Moral?*  **Online Discussion Round 3** | **Round 1 Cogitation 2 Due by midnight**  **Round 2 “Cogitation Logic” 2 due**  **Round 3 Leader Summary due** |
| **13 (11-20)** | VE& Abortion  ET, 337-355 (18 pages) Hursthouse | **Thanksgiving Break - NO Class** |
| Online Activity |  | **Round 2 Cogitation 2 Due by midnight**  **Round 3 “Cogitation Logic” 2 due** |
| **14 (11-27)**  Deadline for “W” Withdraw | Feminist Ethics  ET, 363-372 (9 pages)  ET, 373-380 (7 pages) | Feminist Ethics  DE, 231-244 (13 pages) |
| Online Activity |  | **Round 3 Cogitation 2 Due by midnight** |
| **15 (12-4)** | Racism  ARES: Lawrence Blum: *I’m not a racist but…*  33-52(19 pages) | Final Review  *Electronic Devices allowed!* |
| Online Activity |  |  |
| **Finals Week** | | |
| **16 (12-11)** | **NO CLASS - GOD SPEED ON FINALS!** | **NO CLASS** |
| Online Activity | No reading quiz this week | PHIL2310-119 (3:30p class) –  FINAL EXAM DUE by Thursday at Midnight  PHIL2310-114 (11:00a class) –  FINAL EXAM DUE by Friday at Midnight |