

**PHIL 2101–A: History of Ethics**  
**September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
**Professor: Devin Zane Shaw, Ph.D.**  
Contact: Devin.Shaw@carleton.ca

**Class**

Southam Hall 416  
Tuesday, 1:05pm–2:25pm  
Thursday, 1:05pm–2:25pm

**Office Hours**

Paterson Hall 329B  
Tuesday, 4:15pm–5:15pm  
Thursday, 4:15pm–5:15pm

**Course Description**

In this course, we will read a number of key texts in the history of ethics. We will begin with three canonical figures in the history of philosophy, Aristotle, Mill, and Kant, who have had a profound influence on major schools of contemporary ethics (virtue ethics, utilitarianism, and deontology). We will examine how they conceive of the good life and the Good in itself, distinctions between practical and theoretical philosophy, and the demands of justice. Then, we will read two influential critics—those critics being Schopenhauer and Nietzsche—of how the philosophical canon has considered ethical problems without critically examining a number of “philosophical prejudices.” We will conclude by looking at how the scope of ethical problems has been expanded by addressing the failures of many ethical theories to address issues of capacities and disabilities as well as animal rights.

**Course Evaluation**

**Aristotle Reader Report (500 words) due in class September 27<sup>th</sup>.**

This assignment, worth 15% of the final mark, requires you to answer one of the following questions in a short essay:

- For Aristotle, is it possible for individuals who lack virtue to have a true (“perfect”) friendship? Do you agree?
- How, according to Aristotle, is practical wisdom different from philosophic wisdom? Why, despite these differences, do we need both for virtuous action?

**Second Reader Report (600 words).**

This assignment is worth 15% of the final mark. The due date varies according to which question you answer.

- At the conclusion of our readings by Mill, I will announce at least one reader report question. If you choose to answer a question about Mill, your essay is **due in class October 13<sup>th</sup>**.
- At the conclusion of our readings by Kant, I will announce at least one reader report question. If you choose to answer a question about Kant, your essay is **due in class due November 1<sup>st</sup>**

### **Literature Review (1000–1500 words), due in class November 24<sup>th</sup>.**

The literature review is worth 25% of the final mark. This assignment requires the student to summarize and critique two relevant peer-reviewed publications that focus on ethical topics in the philosophers we are reading. It is also assumed that the texts that you review will anticipate questions or problems that you will consider in your final paper.

### **Final Essay (2000–2400 words), due December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:15pm.**

The final essay is worth 45% of the final mark. This assignment requires that the student propose a thesis regarding the debates discussed in class and defend it. The topic must focus on one or more required readings. Assignments that do not focus on topics of ethics drawing on required readings will not receive credit. Please leave hard copies of this essay in the drop box across from the Department of Philosophy office in Paterson Hall 3A35.

### **Required Texts**

These required readings are available through the ARES reserve system:

- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, in *The Basic Works of Aristotle*. Ed. Richard McKeon (New York: The Modern Library, 2001), selections.
- Martha C. Nussbaum, "Capabilities and Disabilities: Justice for Mentally Disabled Citizens," *Philosophical Topics*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (2002), 133–165.
- Christine Korsgaard, "Fellow Creatures: Kantian Ethics and Our Duties to Animals," *Tanner Lectures on Human Values* 24 (2004): 77–110.

These required texts have been ordered through All Books, 327 Rideau Street:

- John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty, Utilitarianism and Other Essays*. Ed. Mark Philip and Frederick Rosen (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015). ISBN: 978-0-19-9670802.
- Immanuel Kant, *Ethical Philosophy*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Trans. James W. Ellington (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1995). ISBN: 978-0-87220-320-4.
- Arthur Schopenhauer, *The Two Fundamental Problems of Ethics*. Trans. David E. Cartwright and Edward Erdmann (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010). ISBN: 978-0-19-929722-1.
- Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil/On the Genealogy of Morality*. Trans. Adrian Del Caro (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2014). ISBN: 978-0-8047-8898-4.

### **Policies and Procedures:**

1. Professionalism: I require that students adopt a professional attitude towards class conduct. This entails arriving on time and not leaving early, focusing on the lecture and not engaging in discussions unrelated to class material, turning off and ignoring cell phones unless an emergency is imminent, such as mortality (birth or death) or imprisonment. Most importantly, I also expect class discussions to be conducted at a respectful and professional level.
2. Email to the professor should indicate the name, student number, and course. The subject line should read PHIL 2101A. Please note that I reserve the right to not answer an email if it requests information that is provided on the syllabus or other distributed documents.
3. Assignments are returned two weeks after they are submitted; grades are posted on CULearn.
4. Late assignments, not excused by doctor's note or other documentation, are penalized 5% per day for the first 4 days, and 10% per day thereafter. This includes assignments that are submitted on the correct day but not in class (if required), *in class* meaning "student present at the beginning of class."

## **Reading Schedule (Subject to Change)**

Week 1: September 8	Introduction
Week 2: September 13, 15	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Ch. 2, 3
Week 3: September 20, 22	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Ch. 6, 8
Week 4: September 27, 29	Mill, "Utilitarianism," pp. 114–177
<b>September 27</b>	<b>First Reader Report Due</b>
Week 5: October 4, 6	Mill, "The Subjection of Women," pp. 406–505
Week 6: October 11, 13	Kant, <i>Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , pp. 1–48
<b>October 13</b>	<b>Mill Reader Report Due</b>
Week 7: October 20, 22	Kant, <i>Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , pp. 49–62 Kant, <i>Ethical Philosophy</i> , pp. 90–93, 103–111, 162–166
<b>Week 8: October 24–28</b>	<b>Fall Break, No Classes</b>
Week 9: November 1, 3	Schopenhauer, "On the Basis of Morals," pp. 125–271
<b>November 1</b>	<b>Kant Reader Report Due</b>
Week 10: November 8, 10	Schopenhauer, "On the Basis of Morals"
Week 11: November 15, 17	Schopenhauer, "On the Basis of Morals" Nietzsche, <i>On the Genealogy of Morality</i> , pp. 207–245 (Preface, First Treatise)
Week 12: November 22, 24	Nietzsche, <i>On the Genealogy of Morality</i> , pp. 286–305 (Third Treatise, Sections 1–10)
<b>November 24</b>	<b>Literature Review Due</b>
Week 13: November 29 December 1	Nussbaum, "Capabilities and Disabilities" Korsgaard, "Fellow Creatures"
Week 14: December 6, 8	Korsgaard, "Fellow Creatures"
<b>December 22</b>	<b>Final Essay Due</b>

## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2016-17)

### **Assignments:**

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following:
  - student name
  - student number
  - course number and section
  - instructor's name
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

### **Deferrals for Term Work:**

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

### **Plagiarism:**

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

### **Academic Accommodation:**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**Religious obligation:** write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. After requesting

accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

### **Important Dates:**

Sept. 7	Classes start.
Sept. 20	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 24-28	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 25	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 9	Last day of classes, Fall term. Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Dec. 9	Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 9	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 10-22	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 22	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 18	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 20	Family Day – University closed.
Feb. 20-24	Winter Break, no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 7	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.
Apr. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 10-25	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 14	Good Friday – University closed.
Apr. 25	Take-home exams are due.

### **Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy">www.carleton.ca/philosophy</a> 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/registrar">www.carleton.ca/registrar</a> 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/sasc">www.carleton.ca/sasc</a> 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/">http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/</a> 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735