

PHIL 2101-A: HISTORY OF ETHICS

Fall 2015

Monday/Wednesday 4:05-5:25

Dr. Katherine Wayne

Office: 3A54 Paterson Hall

Office hours: Tuesdays 1:30-2:30, Thursdays 12:30-1:30, and by appointment

E-mail: katherine.wayne@carleton.ca or via cuLearn (for brief questions)

Teaching assistant and office hours: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisite(s): 0.5 credit in philosophy or second-year standing.

In this course we will examine the historical origins and trajectory of some central ideas and debates in moral and political theory. We will read primary texts by scholars spanning from the ancients to contemporary authors, on questions about what constitutes the (morally) good life and the good itself, what constitutes (morally) correct action and rightness, and how to understand the relationship between these. Questions pertaining to the nature, significance, and demands of justice will feature prominently in the course. We will consider various perspectives on the meaning of justice, its value, and what role it plays in theory, the good life, and society.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course aims to help students:

- Become familiar with some key thinkers and foundational problems and debates in philosophical ethics
- Gain insight into relations among some historical schools of thought and their approaches to basic ethical questions
- Develop awareness of how contemporary moral and political theory, and ethical issues, are shaped by historical works
- Develop skills in philosophical writing, argumentation, and discussion

CLASS TEXT

Required text for purchase at campus bookstore:

Cahn, Steven (Editor). 2011. *Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy*, second edition. New York: Oxford University Press.

Some additional required and optional readings will be made available through the library's reserve system, Ares, which is accessible through cuLearn

I will also post other learning resource documents on cuLearn from time to time, as well as the Power Point lecture slides shown in class. Keep in mind, however, that the cuLearn site cannot be guaranteed to include all class material, and lecture notes will

not be posted online. Regular visits to the course website are required, but cannot replace regular class attendance.

EXPECTATIONS

Format and protocol:

This is a lecture-based course but discussion will be encouraged where possible, including in pair or small group exercises. Students are expected to arrive to class having completed the assigned readings and to be prepared to reflect on those readings in writing and/or discussion. It is recommended that you bring the assigned reading(s) to class.

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and stay until the end of class, barring extenuating circumstances. While class is in session, please avoid any activities that may be distracting to yourself or those around you, including talking outside class discussion, using your cell phone, or using your laptop for purposes other than note-taking (research shows that multi-tasking on a laptop negatively affects both you and those around you, even when the distraction is not obvious).

Feedback, guidance, and learning assistance:

Each graded portion of the course will include clear instructions and an explanation of how you are being assessed. You can expect to receive timely and detailed feedback; quizzes will typically be returned after one week to ten days, and papers in two weeks.

Our cuLearn page will include a number of helpful resources geared toward junior philosophy students, as well as discussion forums. Students are also encouraged take advantage of office hours; you are welcome to discuss any course-related questions, thoughts, or concerns with me or the teaching assistant during those set hours, or by appointment. You are welcome to get in touch via e-mail and/or cuLearn messaging, but note that e-mail and cuLearn inquiries should be reserved for brief questions. Content-heavy questions and feedback requests should generally be reserved for in-person discussion. I check my e-mail regularly during the work week so online inquiries will typically receive a response within twenty-four hours between Monday and Friday.

EVALUATION

The grading scheme for this course is made up of three components:

1) 2 short papers (15% and 20%)

Students will submit two short (1200-1500 words) papers during the course of the term, which will respectively make up 15% and 20% of the final grade. No outside research for these papers is required. The first paper is due Wednesday September 30th, and the second is due Wednesday November 4th. Students will have a choice of paper topics provided by the instructor, but may also create their own topic as long as it is approved by the instructor.

Detailed instructions will be provided on cuLearn.

2) Quizzes (20%)

Seven pop quizzes will be administered during the course of the term, and of these your best five will contribute to your final grade (making the quizzes worth 4% each). These quizzes will test some basic knowledge about the reading assigned for that week and/or ask for some analysis of a short passage from the reading. These quizzes will be designed to be easy for those who have read the relevant text carefully, and to be possible to complete well with a quicker reading of the relevant text.

Further information and a sample quiz will be provided on cuLearn.

3) Take home exam (40%)

Students will complete a take home final exam that will primarily consist in a long essay question, and will focus on material from the last third of the course. The take home will be due sometime during the final examination period, precise deadline TBD.

Detailed instructions will be provided on cuLearn.

POLICIES

General accommodations

If you have any concerns about your ability to fulfill course requirements, but are unsure of how to proceed, please speak with me as soon as possible. Students who think they may need accommodations are also encouraged to be in touch with the Paul Menton Centre as soon as possible (see below for contact).

For all students: please be careful to inform yourself on relevant departmental and university policies, accommodations services, and other helpful university services such as health and counselling. You must also be aware of Carleton's academic integrity policy; plagiarism is a serious issue and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. There is a complete list of services and policies on the last pages of this syllabus.

Late or missed work

There will be no make-up quizzes. If a chronic medical condition or an urgent family obligation forces you to miss more than one quiz, please obtain documentation and speak with me as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements.

If requested for legitimate reasons, and more than 24 hours prior to the paper deadline, extensions for the short papers may be granted by the instructor. You are, however, strongly encouraged to submit on time—for your own benefit as well as out of consideration to the instructor and teaching assistant. The same applies to the take-home exam, but note that university policy prohibits granting extensions beyond the last

day of the exam period. If a further extension is required you will need to request a deferral through administration.

READINGS SCHEDULE

The reading schedule is not an exhaustive plan for the course; in some classes we may, for instance, read another short text, briefly consider a distinct topic, use other media, or participate in an academic skill development session. Minor changes to the required reading schedule may be necessary, and such changes will be announced in advance both in class and on cuLearn.

Unless otherwise indicated, all readings are from the required textbook. Each author's work that we will read is accompanied by a short introduction to the author's key arguments, contributions, and place in the broader debate/historical context. While I only include a couple of these introductions as required reading, reading them as a matter of practice will likely be quite helpful to you.

WEEK 1: Introduction

Wednesday September 2: Class cancelled, no readings (instructor out of country; please see cuLearn page and if you require further information e-mail instructor)

Friday September 4 (Monday schedule): Introduction to the course and to the philosophical study of ethics; no assigned readings

WEEK 2: Responding to injustice

Monday September 7: Labour day, no class

Wednesday September 9: Plato, *Defence of Socrates*; *Crito*

WEEK 3: Is justice desirable? Is it good for us?

Monday September 14: Plato, *Republic* Book I

Wednesday September 16: *Republic* Book I con't

WEEK 4: Virtue and happiness

Monday September 21: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* Book I

Wednesday September 23: *Nicomachean Ethics* Books II and III

WEEK 5: Virtue and happiness con't

Monday September 28: Epicurus, *Principal Doctrines*

Wednesday September 30: Seneca, Selections (tbd) from *Moral Letters to Lucilius* (free online – see cuLearn)

WEEK 6: What makes it right? Sentiment and convention

Monday October 5: David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature* Book II Part III Section III, Book III Part I Section I

Wednesday October 7: Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals* Section V Part I, Appendix 1 (free online – see cuLearn)

WEEK 7: What makes it right? The one true law

Monday October 12: Thanksgiving, no class

Wednesday October 14: Paul Guyer, Introduction to Immanuel Kant; Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Preface

WEEK 8: Moral goodness as lawful willing

Monday October 19: Kant, *Groundwork*, Chapter I and Chapter II

Wednesday October 21: Kant, On the Common Saying: “This May Be True in Theory but It Does Not Apply in Practice” Introduction and Section I

FALL BREAK

October 26-30: No classes

WEEK 9: The will and pleasure

Monday November 2: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* Book VII and X

Wednesday November 4: Jeremy Bentham, *Principles of Legislation* Chapters I-XII

WEEK 10: What makes it right? Maximizing utility

Monday November 9: John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism* Chapters I and II

Wednesday November 11: *Utilitarianism* Chapters III and IV

WEEK 11: Autonomy and justice

Monday November 16: John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* Sections 3, 4, 5, 11, 24

Wednesday November 18: Charles Taylor, “Atomism”

WEEK 12: Dependence and justice, and beyond justice

Monday November 23: Cheshire Calhoun, Introduction; Virginia Held, “Non-Contractual Society: A Feminist View”

Wednesday November 25: Martha Nussbaum, “The Feminist Critique of Liberalism”

WEEK 13: Current applications

Monday November 30 and Wednesday December 2: Readings TBD (see cuLearn)

WEEK 14: Course wrap-up/take-home exam workshop

Monday December 7 (Last class and day of Fall term): no assigned readings

NOTE: This syllabus is as complete as possible, but some details will be filled in as the class progresses, and minor changes may be implemented as necessary.

On the following page you will find the full list of policies of Carleton’s philosophy department.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2015-16)

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 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*). 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. 2	Classes start.
Sept. 4	Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Sept. 7	Labour Day - University closed.
Sept. 18	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. 12	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 26-30	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 7	Last day of classes, Fall term. 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. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 8	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 9-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 21	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 6	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 19	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. 15-19	Winter Break, no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Mar. 25	Good Friday – University closed.
Apr. 8	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. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 9-10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Apr. 11-23	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 23	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

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