

## College of Arts – Online Course Outline Template

Course Code: PHIL *4340	Section: 01	Semester: W13
Course Title: Advanced Ethics		
Instructor: John Hacker-Wright		
Brief course Synopsis:  We will read three major texts in ethical theory from 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> century Germany: Immanuel Kant's Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals, Arthur Schopenhauer's On the Basis of Ethics, and Friedrich Nietzsche's Daybreak. One of the central themes of all three texts is moral motivation: what are we aiming at when we act rightly or act well? We get three very different answers to this question in these texts, and Schopenhauer and Nietzsche both disagree with Kant vehemently, and Nietzsche vehemently disagrees with Schopenhauer. What emerges, then, is a debate with interesting implications for how we conceive the psychological of right action. In connection with these themes from these historical texts, we will look at some contemporary psychological literature on altruism.  Textbook(s): Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals On the Basis of Morality Daybreak		