

# UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY PHIL 2120-01 Ethics

Harold Duggan Summer 2011

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Office hours: 6 - 7 PM Tuesdays and Thursdays

## Course Description:

This course will guide you through three primary texts of western ethics: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, John Stuart Mill's *On Liberty*, and Immanuel Kant's *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*. The intension of this course is to familiarize the student with these primary and difficult texts. By doing so, the student will comprehend the primary ways of approaching ethical thought in western philosophy. The intension is not to deeply criticize these texts, or to pit one against the other, but to prepare the student for further ethical study, whether that study will be academic or independent.

## Required Texts:

**Aristotle, *The Nicomachean Ethics*.** Translated and edited by J. A. K. Thompson. Penguin Classics, 1976  
**John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty and the Subjugation of Women*.** Penguin Classics, 2006  
**Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*** Translated by Mary Gregor. Cambridge University Press: 1998

## Course Requirements:

- Three 2 page exegetical papers worth 10 % each
- One midterm worth 30%
- Final exam worth 40%

## What you can expect from me in this course:

As your instructor in this course you can expect me to present the ideas of the philosopher from the text in a way that both pushes you and helps you to succeed. You can also expect me to be accessible during my office hours, and to help you at that time with any questions you have. I will comment on drafts of essays that are given to me one week before the due date. I will mark your essays and tests fairly and objectively. What I expect from you in this course Perhaps most importantly, I expect you to participate in all aspects of the class taking your present role as a student seriously. This means, fundamentally, having an objective to learn. Following this objective means coming to classes, doing the readings, and handing things in on time. It also means having respect for the class room, a space we all participate in. I would ask that the use of laptops be restricted to note taking and whatever other academic activity might be appropriate. Checking Facebook, watching videos, etc, are not academic activities. Please keep these activities outside the classroom, both for other's sake, and for your own. The texts we are dealing with are challenging, and they will require your attention. As well, respect for the classroom takes on another dimension in a philosophy class. This is because philosophy requires active thinking and interaction. There may be times when questions are asked and debates occur. Please be respectful during these times. Try not to feel intimidated. Ask your questions. The more impute I receive that tells me what students are struggling with, the more effective I will be in my role as your instructor. Lastly, thank you for choosing this course. It is an honour to have you as a student!

**Written Assignments:** The written assignments assigned are intended to have a progressive impact on your understanding of the course material and your capacity to do well in this course. The first two written assignments will be designed to assist you in clarifying a central aspect of both philosophers. This will assist you greatly in the exams, of course. All written assignments are to be double spaced, not exceed the required page length by more than half a page, and be done in 12 point Times New Roman Font.

## PHIL 2120 - 01, Ethics Schedule:

May 12, Introduction May 17, 19 Nicomachean Ethics, Book I; Book II Ch.

May 24, 26 Nicomachean Ethics, Book II; Book III (2 page exegetical assigned)

May 31, June 02 Nicomachean Ethics, Book V, VI (First written assignment due on May 31)

June 07, 09 Nicomachean Ethics, Book X, (wrap up of Aristotle)

June 14, 16, Liberty, Ch. 1 (Midterm on the 14th)

June 21, 23 Liberty, Ch. 2, Liberty, Ch. 3 (2 page Exegetical Assigned)

June 28 Liberty Ch. 4, June 30, On the Subjugation of Women Lecture (second written assignment due on Jun 28)

July 5, 7 Groundwork: Preface, Groundwork: Section 1

July 12, 14 Groundwork, Section 2, Section 2 (2 page Exegetical Assigned)

July 19, 21 Groundwork, Section. 3, Section 3 (third written assignment due on July 19)

July 26, 28 On both Days Selections from Kant's 'Doctrine of Virtue' from The Metaphysics of Morals will be discussed. Copies of the selections will be provided. This will allow us to see differences in Kant and Aristotle's conception of virtue.

August 2, last class (review)

**Final Exam:** 08/18/2011 19:00 21:00

## SEVEN STANDARD STATEMENTS - SUMMER 2011

### E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their [uoguelph.ca](mailto:uoguelph.ca) email account regularly - email is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

### When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement...

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

### Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester **Summer 2011** courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday July 8th**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

### Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments; you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

### Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community - faculty, staff, and students - to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

### **Recording of Materials**

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

### **Resources**

The Undergraduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate programs. It can be found at:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/>