

Readings:

Sept 9 Introduction to the course; Aristotle, Book 1, chapters 5 and 7

Sept 16 Aristotle, Book 1 and Book 2 ch. 1-3: Happiness, the proper activity for humans, and habit

Sept 23 Aristotle, Book 2 ch. 4 to the end of Book 2, and Book 3: Virtue and the golden mean

Sept 30 Aristotle, Book 5 ch. 1-5: Justice
Book 6 ch. 5-13: Practical wisdom
Book 7 ch. 1-6: Moral weakness

Oct 7 Aristotle, Book 8 and Book 9: Friendship

Oct 21 Mill, ch. 1-3

Oct 28 Mill ch. 4-5

Nov 4 De Beauvoir pp. 7-78

Nov 11 De Beauvoir, pp. 78-159

Nov 18 Appiah, chapters 1-4

Nov 25 Appiah, chapters 5-8

Thursday Nov 28 Appiah, chapters 9-10
Preparation for final exam

Wednesday December 11, 7-9pm: Final exam (in the regular classroom)

Group discussion questions:

Sept 16 Can a person with bad moral habits suddenly do something good?

Sept 23 Is there a golden mean in the case of lying: i.e., is it the case that not too much but not too little lying is morally good?

Sept 30 Is it possible to bring oneself to do something good if it is unpleasant to do so. If it is, how do we do that?

Oct 7 How many friends should one have?

Oct 21 According to utilitarianism, would it be good to massively increase the amount of funding spent on research towards space travel?

Oct 28 Mill asks: “Is it just or not that talent or skill should give a title to superior remuneration?” Do you agree or disagree with his answer. Say why.

Nov 4 This reading uses concrete case studies to suggest moral principles. Come up with your own example of a type moral life, on the model of de Beauvoir’s cases of “the serious man”, “the passionate man”, etc., and work out its particular balance of freedom and facticity, both its successes and failures in maintaining that ambiguity. (For example, you could invent a case like “the complainer” or “the sarcastic person” or “the good listener”—invent one of your own.)

Nov 11 Is De Beauvoir right in her view that leaders of political movements, no matter how good, always commit immoral actions (and know that they do)?

Nov 18 Is it possible to understand the values of people in cultures not one’s own? (Think of an example where it seems difficult, and consider whether it is possible. And consider how to define “understand”.)

Nov 25 If a certain culture has developed knowledge of the medicinal properties of certain plants, is it fair for doctors in other cultures to make free use of that knowledge to heal their patients, or does the culture that developed the knowledge have intellectual property rights that allow them to keep the knowledge to themselves, or to charge whatever they want for it?

Nov 28 Is there a duty to give charity to strangers (i.e. to people you will never see)? If there is, how much luxury are you allowed to keep for yourself even while those strangers are suffering?

E-mail Communication

As per University regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail 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 Fall 2013 courses, without academic penalty, is **Thursday October 31**. 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.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities that involve, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c14/c14-strightsrespon.shtml>

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/>

If you find yourself in difficulty, contact the undergraduate advisor in your program, or the BA Counselling Office: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/baco/contact.shtml>