Introduction to Ethics

Place: TBD   **Time:** TBD

Instructor: Eric de Araujo   **Office:** TBD

Email: dearaujo.3@osu.edu   **Office Hours:** TBD

Texts & Materials

An Introduction to Moral Philosophy (2018) by Jonathan Wolff.

Readings in Moral Philosophy (2018) by Jonathan Wolff.

Readings will come from the above text and anthology. Additional readings might be posted on Carmen. Bring either your textbook or appropriate readings to class.

Course Description

In this introduction to ethics will think about ethical issues like philosophers. First, we will learn how to reason morally and consider challenges to moral theorizing. Then we will examine some major ethical theories along with some objections to them. Once we understand these, we will discuss some ethical debates on particular topics.

Course Goals & Objectives

A. You will be able to articulate and evaluate major ethical theories by:

Articulating main positions within ethical debates, identifying differences between ethical theories, presenting objections to ethical theories, applying ethical theories to cases, and communicating philosophical views to others.

B. You will be able to comprehend and critique others' views by:

Identifying the main conclusion of others' arguments, identifying the support given for a conclusion, evaluating the arguments of others, representing the logical structure of arguments, and determining what evidence is relevant to a conclusion.

C. You will be able to contribute to ethical debates by:

Articulating main positions within ethical debates, applying ethical theories to cases, constructing an original argument, identifying the main conclusion of others' arguments, identifying the support given for a conclusion, evaluating the arguments of

others, distinguishing moral and non-moral questions, communicating philosophical views to others, and anticipating and defending views from objections.

Schedule

Here is the schedule we hope to follow. The first table lists the topics and associated readings. *An Introduction to Moral* Philosophy is abbreviated as *Intro.*, while *Readings in Moral Philosophy* is abbreviated as *Readings*. You should read the material before the first day of discussion. Reading quizzes are due the day of the assigned reading. The second table lists when major assignments are due and when exams will occur. The schedule is subject to change as the course progresses. In particular, I am open to changing the applied topics we discuss at the end based on student interest.

Schedule of Readings

Topic	Reading	Day
Philosophy & Arguments	Chapter 1 in *Intro.*	2
Why Reason Morally?	Chapter 2 in *Intro.*	3
	Chapter 3 in *Intro.*	4
Utilitarianism	Chapter 8 in *Intro.*	5
		6
	Chapter 9 in *Intro.*	7
		8
Kantian Deontology	Chapter 10 in *Intro.*	9
		10
	Chapter 11 in *Intro.*	11
		12
Virtue Ethics	Chapter 12 in *Intro.*	13
		14
	Chapter 13 in *Intro.*	15
		16
	John Stuart Mill, "On Liberty of Expression" in *Readings*	17

Free Speech	Catherine McKinnon, "Pornography, Civil Rights, and Speech" in *Readings*	18
	Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt, "The Coddling of the American Mind" in *Readings*	19
Racial Justice	W.E.B. Du Bois, "The Souls of Black Folk" in *Readings*	20
	Elizabeth Anderson, "Racial Integration Remains an Imperative" in *Readings*	21
	Shelby Steele, "Affirmative Action: The Price of Preference" in *Readings*	22
	George Yancy and Judith Butler, "Black Lives Matter" in *Readings*	23
Economic Justice	John Rawls, "A Theory of Justice" in *Readings*	24
	Robert Nozick, "The Entitlement Theory of Justice" in *Readings*	25
	Iris Marion Young, "Political Responsibility and Structural Injustice" in *Readings*	26

Schedule of Assignments

Day	Major Assignment Due	Goals
2	Find an Argument	B
3	Critique an Argument	B
	Pre-Course Reflection	C
14	Exam 1	A, B
18	Essay 1 Draft	A, B, C
	Peer Review	B
22	Essay 1 Revision	A, B, C
26	Essay 2 Draft	A, B, C
	Peer Review	B
27	Exam 2	A, B
	Post-Course Reflection Paper	C
Exam Week	Essay 2 Revision	A, B, C

Grading

Argument Assignments	*10%*	*Reading Quizzes*		*10%*
Find an Argument	5%	*Essays*		*40%*
Critique an Argument	5%	Draft of Essay 1		4%
Exams	*30%*	Draft of Essay 2		4%
Exam 1	15%	Peer Review of Paper 1		4%
Exam 2	15%	Peer Review of Paper 2		4%
Reflection Papers	*5%*	Revision of Essay 1		12%
Pre-Course Reflection	2.5%	Revision of Essay 2		12%
Post-Course Reflection	2.5%	*Participation*		*5%*

Course Mechanics

I've planned the course to begin with some basic philosophical skills so you can make your own philosophical contributions. We will then discuss the merits of moral theorizing, examine some ethical theories, and apply our reasoning to particular issues. Here are some of the ways we will do that:

Argument Practice

In the first few weeks I want you to become comfortable with reading, summarizing, and critiquing arguments. We will have several in class activities and homework assignments that will give you practice with these skills.

Discussion

Doing philosophy is like having a conversation on a topic with a lot of people. This makes in class discussion a great way to practice doing philosophy. Discussion is an opportunity for you to ask questions about the reading, offer your own views and criticisms, and respond to the views of your peers. My job is to make the views we are looking at clear to the class and to facilitate a dialogue between you, your peers, and the philosophers we are reading.

I want everyone to grow more comfortable contributing to our in-class discussions. Trying out your ideas with your peers helps improve them. I will offer several ways for you to participate. These will range from large discussions with the whole class to conversations with a partner. In an effort to give

everyone an opportunity to participate, I am open to trying different things so that everyone can make a contribution. Again, please contact me if there are any concerns about your contributions to the class.

Reading Quizzes

In order to best utilize our time together, there will be short quizzes for each of the readings on Carmen. These are designed to assess basic comprehension of the material so you are prepared to discuss the material in class. These will partially be graded on completion and partially on accuracy.

Essay Drafts, Peer Review, & Revisions

Much of the dialogue in philosophy today is done through publishing papers. I want you to be able to contribute to the philosophical dialogue by writing your own papers. Like the revision process in academic publishing, we will have a revision process with the papers you write for this course. You will bring a draft of your paper to class and provide feedback on another student's draft in class. Additionally, I will give you feedback on your drafts. That way you will have a chance to respond to this feedback in the final paper you turn in. More information will be provided during the course.

Exams

You will not be able to write an essay about all the issues we cover in the course. However, I want you to leave the course with an understanding of the ethical theories and the main points of the debates we discuss. These in-class exams are designed to see how well you comprehend the views we cover.

Course Reflections

These reflection papers are an opportunity for you to reflect your own views. The initial paper is an opportunity for you to think about what ethics is, what you hope to learn, or what views you might already have. The last paper is an opportunity for you to reflect on how your thinking has been shaped, if at all, by the course.

Office Hours

Office hours tend to be an underutilized resource (unless something is due soon). You are welcome to come and chat about anything related to the course or even philosophy in general. Office hours can be a good way to clear up misconceptions and better understand how you are doing in the course. I will make an effort to find a time to meet if you cannot make it to the scheduled times.

Policies

[I aim to keep policies consistent across courses. See the syllabi for previously taught courses for a list of my policies.]