



## PHIL 021: Introduction to Ethics

Term: 2020 Winter Session

Instructor: Staff

Language of Instruction: English

Classroom: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Class Sessions Per Week: 5

Total Weeks: 3

Total Class Sessions: 15

Class Session Length (minutes): 240

Credit Hours: 4

### Course Description:

This course gives a systematic introduction to ethics, the philosophical study of morality, discussing what is right and wrong, and what is good and evil. Students will firstly understand basics to ethics, the history of ethics, and discussion on ethics and religion. Then students will examine major ethic theories, including Cultural and Ethic Relativism, Psychological Egoism and ethical Egoism, utilitarianism, Kant's moral theory, etc. Through these theoretical discourses, we will understand what we should do, what we shall not do and for what reasons. Finally we will move to the discussion on contemporary ethical issues, including abortion, euthanasia, and animal right.

### Learning Objectives:

1. Recall the history, concepts and major thinkers in moral philosophy.
2. Demonstrate understanding and familiarity on major ethical traditions, views and theories.
3. Reading texts, recognize, analyze, and assess arguments critically, construct and defend your argument effectively.
4. Relate daily encountering to different ethical view and theories.
5. Develop critical thinking and writing skills through course reading and paper writing.



### Course Materials:

1. *The Fundamentals of Ethics*, 4th edition, by Russ Shafer-Landau (Author)

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 4 (June 21st, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9780190631390

ISBN-13: 978-0190631390

2. *Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues*, 9th Edition, by Barbara

MacKinnon (Author), Andrew Fiala (Author)

Publisher: Cengage Learning; 9 (January 1, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1305958675

ISBN-13: 978-1305958678

### Course Format and Requirements:

This course has 15 class sessions in total. Each class session is 240 minutes in length.

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in class discussion. Please do not use electronic devices such as phones, iPads, computers, etc. during the lectures.

#### **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory. More than three unexcused absences will result in an automatic reduction in your participation grade, for instance from A- to B+. Your active participation in the class is expected and constitutes part of your grade.

### Grading Scale:

**A+: 98%-100%**

**A: 93%-97%**

**A-: 90%-92%**

**B+: 88%-89%**

**B: 83%-87%**

**B-: 80%-82%**

**C+: 78%-79%**

**C: 73%-77%**

**C-: 70%-72%**

**D+: 68%-69%**



**D: 63%-67%**

**D-: 60%-62%**

**F: Below 60%**

### Course Assignments:

#### **Participation and Class Discussion :**

All students are expected to play an active role in class discussion. This means students shall ensure a regular attendance and at the same time pre-reading relevant course materials or chapters in textbook before class, in order to express his/her position in class discussion session, or defend his/her own argument.

Active participation in class discussion will also enhance your understanding on learnt theories, and through free discussion, student exchange individual and unique recognition and thinking on course materials.

#### **3 Short Papers :**

You will be required to write 3 short papers. Each paper is worth 15% of your grade. In each paper, you will present your position on an issue and present an argument in support of that position. The topic is up to you, as long as it relates to something we discussed in class or something that you read in the textbook.

The paper should be from 3 to 5 pages long. The appendix and references are not included in the page count. The paper should be double-spaced, using Times New Roman size 12 with 1-inch margins, and should strictly follow the APA format.

#### **Exams:**

There will be one midterm exam and one final exam. Both exam questions will be mainly composed of conceptual multiple choice questions/true or false, short essay writing questions and/or comprehensive case analysis questions. The focus will be laid on testing students' capability of using techniques to analyze, construct and defend their own arguments, as well as familiarity on major ethic view and theories.

The final exam is cumulative, though emphasis will be placed on material covered after the midterm.

### Course Assessment:

Participation and Discussion	10%
Short Paper 1	15%



Short Paper 2	15%
Short Paper 3	15%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Course Schedule:

Week	Topics	Activities
1	<p>Course introduction, Objective and Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduction to Ethics: What is ethics? History of Ethics and Great Moral Philosopher In Ancient Greek <i>Reading by Plato</i> Ethics and Reason, Intuitionism, Emotivism, Subjectivism, Objectivism, Ethics Reasoning and Arguments <i>Reading "Ethic Theory and Contemporary Issue Chapter 1"</i></li> <li>● Ethics and Religion Three Assumption about Morality and Religion <i>Reading "Fundamentals of Ethics Chapter 5"</i> <i>Reading "Euthyphro by Plato"</i> <i>Reading "Religion and Truth by Mohandas K. Gandhi"</i></li> <li>● Cultural and Ethical Relativism Reason's Supporting Ethical Relativism: The Diversity of Moral Views, Tolerance and Open-Mindedness, Moral Uncertainty and Situational Differences <i>Reading "Ethic Theory and Contemporary Issue Chapter 3"</i> <i>Reading "Fundamentals of Ethics Chapter 19"</i></li> <li>● Egoism and Altruism, Psychological Egoism; Ethic Egoism and Social Contract</li> </ul>	<p>Reading Class Discussion Short Paper 1</p>



	<p><i>Reading “Ethic Theory and Contemporary Issue Chapter 4”</i></p> <p><i>Reading “Fundamentals of Ethics Chapter 7&amp;8”</i></p>	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Consequentialism and Utilitarianism</li> </ul> <p>The Nature of Consequentialism, The Classical Utilitarianism</p> <p><i>Reading “Fundamentals of Ethics Chapter 9”</i></p> <p><i>Reading “Ethic Theory and Contemporary Issue Chapter 5”</i></p> <p>Well-Being Measuring, Impartiality, Discussion on Wrongness and Rightness, The Problem of Injustice and Potential Solutions, Rule Consequentialism</p> <p><i>Reading “Fundamentals of Ethics Chapter 10”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kant’s Moral Theory:</li> </ul> <p>Deontology, The Good Will, Autonomy and The Categorical Imperatives</p> <p><i>Reading “Fundamentals of Ethics Chapter 11”</i></p> <p><i>Reading “Ethic Theory and Contemporary Issue Chapter 6”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Natural Law Theory, Human Nature and Ethics</li> </ul> <p><i>Reading “Fundamentals of Ethics Chapter 6”</i></p> <p><i>Reading “Ethic Theory and Contemporary Issue Chapter 7”</i></p>	<p>Reading</p> <p>Class Discussion</p> <p>Short Paper 2</p> <p>Midterm Exam</p>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Virtue Ethics</li> </ul> <p>Aristotle, Gloden Mean, Objections to Virtue Ethics</p> <p><i>Reading “Fundamentals of Ethics Chapter 17”</i></p> <p><i>Reading “Ethic Theory and Contemporary Issue Chapter 8”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Feminist Ethics</li> </ul> <p><i>Reading “Fundamentals of Ethics Chapter 18”</i></p> <p><i>Reading “Ethic Theory and Contemporary Issue Chapter 9”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Applied Ethics and Contemporary Issues</li> </ul> <p>Euthanasia</p> <p><i>Reading “Ethic Theory and Contemporary Issue Chapter</i></p>	<p>Reading</p> <p>Class Discussion</p> <p>Short Paper 3</p> <p>Final Exam</p>



	<p>10”</p> <p>Abortion</p> <p>Reading “<i>Ethic Theory and Contemporary Issue Chapter 11</i>”</p> <p>Animal Rights</p> <p>Reading “<i>Ethic Theory and Contemporary Issue Chapter 17</i>”</p>	
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**Academic Integrity:**

Students are encouraged to study together, and to discuss lecture topics with one another, but all other work should be completed independently.

Students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty and integrity that are described in the Shanghai Normal University’s *Academic Conduct Code*. Any work suspected of violating the standards of the *Academic Conduct Code* will be reported to the Dean’s Office. Penalties for violating the *Academic Conduct Code* may include dismissal from the program. All students have an individual responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the *Academic Conduct Code*.

**Special Needs or Assistance:**

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.