PHIL 112-01
History of Ethics
California State University, Sacramento, (Spring 2021)
(Remote/Asynchronous)

Subject to Change due to dynamic COVID-19 Situation

Instructor: Dr. Tristan J. Rogers, Lecturer, Department of Philosophy
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Moral philosophy is a rich intellectual tradition. As the inheritors of this tradition, students of its history have an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of ethics and the good life. But what is a good life? Is living a good life the same thing as living an ethical life? Is morality about fulfilling ethical duties? Or is morality fundamentally about producing good outcomes? These are some of the big questions raised in the history of ethics. In this course, we will discuss these (and other) questions by studying works by Plato, Aristotle, David Hume, Adam Smith, Immanuel Kant, and John Stuart Mill. The course is divided into two parts. Part One focuses on ancient ethics and its central theme of living a good life in accordance with virtue. Part Two turns to modern ethics and its central project of giving a rational account of morality.

Catalogue Description: "Investigation of the main approaches to ethics in Western moral philosophy. Emphasis on Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant and Mill." See prerequisites here.

Required Texts (available in Bookstore or online):
Plato, *Five Dialogues: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Phaedo*, 2nd ed. (Hackett)
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, 2nd ed. (Hackett)
David Hume, *Moral Philosophy* (Hackett)
Immanuel Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals* (Hackett)
John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*, 2nd ed. (Hackett)

All other texts will be available in PDF format on Canvas.

Learning Objectives: By the end of the course, the student should have the ability to
✓ Develop competence in philosophical language and literature on the history and transformations of ethical theories. *Practical Goals associated with this objective:*
  • Accurately describe and distinguish a variety of concepts, theories, and positions in the history of ethics;
  • Express one's own ethical judgments in a cogent and clear fashion;
  • Engage in respectful discussion of difficult and sometimes controversial ethical issues;
  • Analyse specific ethical arguments for consistency and credibility (including one's own).
✓ Develop written and oral communication skills as those are associated with argumentative writing and public speaking. *Practical Goals associated with this objective:*
  • Write competently in concise, precise and well-developed logical style;
  • Express of a point of view through the formulation of a coherent and consistent argument;
  • Present an exposition of text in a coherent manner to an audience of peers.

✓ Meet the learning <u>objectives associated with all General Education area C2 (Humanities) courses</u> at CSUS:
- Demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods of the study of the humanities.
- Investigate, describe, and analyze the roles and effects of human culture and understanding in the development of human societies.
- Compare and analyze various conceptions of humankind.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the historical development of cultures and civilizations, including their animating ideas and values.

Format:
This is an asynchronous course. Students are expected to be self-directed in closely reading the texts. Short audio lectures will accompany each reading, and we will discuss the material together online.

Assessment:
5% - Discussion Posts
Students are expected to participate and engage in the class discussion forums. Minimum 2 posts per week, up to a maximum of 5.

15% - Review Quizzes
Review questions will be due at the end of each week. Responses will be graded as Check (15)/Check-Plus (20)/Check-Minus (10), depending on thoroughness, accuracy, and relevance.

80% - Philosophical Analysis Papers
There will be four short analysis papers (1000 words). The papers should follow the format detailed here. Due dates below are for drafts. Students will be required to meet with me twice in the semester to discuss and improve their drafts. Final drafts will be due at the end of the semester.

Grading Schema:
A = 93-100%, A- = 90-92%, B+ = 87-89%, B = 84-86%, B- = 80-83%, C+ = 77-79%, C = 74-76%, C- = 70-73%, D+ = 67-69%, D = 60-66 %, F = 0-59%

Late work policy: As a rule, work will not be accepted late except in cases of documented emergency or illness. You may make a written petition in advance if you feel an exception is warranted, and given the circumstances of the pandemic, most reasonable petitions will be granted.

Course conduct: You are expected to be respectful toward your fellow students and myself in online discussions.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a violation of University policy and seriously undermines your integrity as a student. Penalties may be severe. It is your responsibility to understand the University's plagiarism policy. When in doubt, ask me. See https://www.csus.edu/umanual/student/stu-0100.htm

Reasonable Accommodation: Should any student need accommodation because of a disability, please let me know to discuss options (documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, 916-278-6955).

Tech Requirements:

- ✓ Canvas: Most versions of Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, and Safari, support the use of Canvas. To view specific Operating System and Browser compatibility with Canvas, please refer to: https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10720.
- ✓ Zoom: You can download Zoom and find more information about using Zoom here: https://www.csus.edu/information-resources-technology/zoom/student-resources.html .
- ✓ PowerPoint: If you do not have access to PowerPoint, you can download it for free here (scroll down to PowerPoint and click on "Access Online or Download from Office365"): https://www.csus.edu/information-resources-technology/software-catalog/#business-productivity .
- ✓ If you experience difficulties with your computer or connecting to the campus networks please contact the Information Resource Technology (IRT) Service Desk by e-mail: servicedesk@csus.edu or phone (916) 278-7337.
- ✓ For information about their complete services visit: http://www.csus.edu/irt/ServiceDesk/.

Tech Support: If you need technical assistance, including with devices or WiFi access, here are some helpful links for the Information Resources and Technology office:
- ✓ During the Covid-19 campus closure, laptops can be checked out for long-term, remote use, as specified here: https://www.csus.edu/information-resources-technology/teaching-learning/laptop-checkout.html.
- ✓ Other assistance, such as information on WiFi Access, can be found here: https://www.csus.edu/information-resources-technology/remote-learning/

Covid-19 Instructions and Support: In general, see the university's website COVID-19 Information and Resources at Sacramento State , and if you are planning to come to campus, check the Sac State Mobile App for the latest COVID-19 protocols. If you are sick, stay home and do not attend class. Notify your instructor. If you are experiencing any COVID- like symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, loss of smell or taste, nausea, diarrhea, or headache) or have had exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID contact **Student Health & Counseling Services (SHCS) at 916-278-6461** to receive guidance and/or medical care. You are asked to report any possible COVID related illnesses/exposures to SHCS via this link COVID-19 Illness/Exposure Report Form. Expect a call from SHCS within 24 hours.

Student Health & Counseling Services: Student Health and Counseling Services staff are available for virtual and in-person services. During this public health crisis and extended period of limited physical or social interaction, if you need counseling or other physical or mental health services, you should not hesitate to reach out to the Student Health and Counseling center. For helpful information and access to their services visit their website at: https://www.csus.edu/student-life/health-counseling/.

Basic Needs Support: If you are experiencing challenges with food, housing, financial or other unique circumstances that are impacting your education, help is just a phone call or email away! The CARES office provides case management support for any enrolled student. Email the CARES office at cares@csus.edu to speak with a case manager about the resources available to you. Check out the CARES website.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Dates	Topics	Readings
PART ONE: **Ancient Ethics**			
Week One – Introduction	Jan 25-29	Why History of Ethics?	Coles, "The Disparity Between Intellect and Character" (PDF)
		The Tradition of Ancient Greek Ethics	Julia Annas, "The Happy Life, Ancient and Modern" (PDF)
Week Two – Plato	Feb 1-5	What is the Good?	*Euthyphro*
		Wisdom and the Good Life	*Apology* (thru line 24b)
Week Three – Plato	Feb 8-12	Virtue and the Good Life	*Apology* (24b-end)
		Justice and the Good Life	*Crito*
	Feb 14	**First Paper Draft Due**	
Week Four – Aristotle	Feb 15-19	Happiness	*Nicomachean Ethics*, Bk. 1
Week Five – Aristotle	Feb 22-26	The Nature of Virtue	*Nicomachean Ethics*, Bk. 2
Week Six – Epicureanism	Mar 1-5	Pleasure and the Good Life	Epicurus, "Letter to Menoeceus" (PDF)

Week Seven – Stoicism and Skepticism	Mar 8-12	Is Happiness in Our Control?	Epictetus, *Enchiridion* (PDF)
		Philosophy and Happiness	Selection from Sextus Empiricus (pdf)
	Mar 14	**Second Paper Draft Due**	
Week Eight – Paper Drafts Week	Mar 15-19	Papers 1 & 2 Meetings	
Week Nine SPRING BREAK	Mar 22-26	N/A	N/A

PART TWO: Modern Ethics

Week Ten – David Hume	Mar 29-Apr 2	Reason and Morality	*A Treatise of Human Nature*, Bk. III, Pt. 1, Sec. 1
		Morality and Sentiment	*Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*, Sec. 1-2
Week Eleven – Adam Smith	Apr 5-9	Justice and Beneficence	Selection from *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* (PDF)
	Apr 11	**Third Paper Draft Due**	
Week Twelve – Immanuel Kant	Apr 12-16	The Good Will	*Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Preface, Sec. 1
Week Thirteen – Immanuel Kant	Apr 19-23	The Categorical Imperative	*Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Preface, Sec. 2
Week Fourteen – John Stuart Mill	Apr 26-30	Defining Utilitarianism	*Utilitarianism*, Ch. 1-2

Week Fifteen – John Stuart Mill	May 3-7	The Principle of Utility	*Utilitarianism*, Ch. 3-4
		Justice and Utility	*Utilitarianism*, Ch. 5
	May 9	**Fourth Paper Draft Due**	
Week Sixteen – Paper Drafts Week	May 10-14	Papers 3 & 4 Meetings	
	May 21	**Final Paper Drafts Due**	