

Teaching Fellow: Christopher Cone
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Office Hours: T, R 12:30-2:00 by appointment only
Office: EESAT 334

Spring 2009
T, R 2:00-3:20
WH221

I. Course Description

What is good? Why be good? Upon what basis can these questions be answered? Historically how have thinkers attempted to answer these questions? This course will deal with these essential issues, examining basic moral theories and contemporary issues comparatively interpreted in light of these systems.

II. Course Objectives

1. To consider the gravity of ethical grounding and moral disagreement
2. To gain an understanding of basic moral theories and areas of agreement and disagreement between them
3. To become conversant in applying basic moral theories to contemporary issues

III. Course Textbook

Required Text:

Stephen M. Cahn and Peter Markie, *Ethics: History, Theory, and Contemporary Issues* (4th edition)

Supplemental Readings:

To be provided by instructor

IV. Evaluation of Student Performance

1. **Class Attendance & Participation** – absences will reduce final grade. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Any student not signed in at the beginning of the class will be considered absent. Class participation and discussion is an important element in the class, and lack of participation in discussion will reduce final grade.
2. **Reading Quizzes** –random reading quizzes will cover assigned reading; there will be no opportunity to make up missed reading quizzes. If there are two assigned readings in a given week, the first is to be done for the first class, the second for the second. If only one reading is assigned, then it is to be completed for the second class.
3. **Exams** – content of the exams will be based on class lectures, reading and discussion; final exam will be cumulative.

Scoring Rubric		
Assignments	Due Date	Points Available
Class Attendance & Participation	Daily	20
Reading Quizzes	Random	30
Mid Term Exam	3/12	25
Final Exam	TBA	25
TOTAL		100

V. Policies

Academic Integrity - Make sure you have it, or you are guaranteed to fail this class...intellectual dishonesty of any kind will result in a failing grade.

Electronic Devices - Use of any electronic devices during class is disallowed, with the exception of laptop computers which will be allowed during lectures for note taking only, but will be disallowed during any class in which exams are scheduled.

VI. Course Schedule with Associated Readings (subject to change)

Week	Content	Readings & Excerpts*
1	Introduction: The Problem of Morality (What is Good?)	C&M, 5-16
2	Intro to Ethical Systems: Virtue Ethics, Social Contract Ethics,	C&M, 124-134 Supplemental Reading: Intro to <i>The Leviathan</i>
3	Intro to Ethical Systems: Utilitarian Ethics, Moral Sentiment,	C&M, 319-327 C&M, 243-254
4	Intro to Ethical Systems: Deontological Ethics, Existentialism	C&M, 280-297 C&M, 362-370
5	Intro to Ethical Systems: Objectivism, Religious Ethics	Supplemental Handouts
6	Abortion	C&M, 765-796
7	Gender Issues	Supplemental Handouts
8	Sexuality Mid Term Review	Friday 3/12 Mid Term Exam
9	Aging & Death	C&M, 811-820 C&M, 924-928
10	Environmental Issues	C&M, 856-868 Supplemental Handouts
11	Crime & Punishment	Supplemental Handouts
12	War, Terrorism, and Torture	C&M, 869-888
13	War, Terrorism, and Torture II	C&M, 889-923
14	Animal Rights	C&M, 841-855
15	Social Political & Poverty Final Exam Review	C&M, 821-840
16	Final Exam	Final Exam date to be announced Final Exam