

Philosophy 161 – Topics in History of Ethics

Spring 2015, MWF, 1:00 - 1:50, Solis 111

Prof. Saba Bazargan

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Course Description

The first purpose of this course is to familiarize you with the development of moral philosophy in the Western tradition. We will be covering over twenty-five centuries of ethical philosophy in just ten weeks; consequently, our treatment of the material will be unavoidably swift and incomplete. Nonetheless, by the end of the course you will have substantial grasp of the projects, principles, and methods of a considerable selection of the ethical philosophers whose work most influenced the course of moral and legal thought. The second purpose of this course is to develop the analytical and skills necessary to critically analyze the ethical projects, principles, and methods of the historical figures we will cover, and beyond.

Grading

Tests - There will be three take-home exams. They will be worth 30%, 35%, and 35% of your total grade, respectively. Each exam will consist of a set of short-answer questions from which you will be required to answer a certain number of them. All exams will be turned in electronically.

Attendance - I will not take attendance. However, it is in your interest to show up to class. The readings can be quite difficult; the purpose of lecture is to elucidate and supplement these readings. In addition, much of what will be on the test will be taken from lecture, and will not be covered in the readings.

Excuses - Extensions to an exam's due date will be granted for religious observances provided I am informed beforehand. Extensions will also be granted for very serious emergencies (hospitalization, bereavement, etc.) provided suitable evidence is provided afterwards. Otherwise, exams will be docked one point for every day that they are late (including weekends).

Grading Scale:

| <u>points</u> | <u>grade</u> |
|---------------|--------------|
| 10 | A+ |
| 9 | A |
| 8 | A- |
| 7 | B+ |
| 6 | B |
| 5 | B- |
| 4 | C+ |
| 3 | C |
| 2 | C- |
| 1 | D |
| 0 | F |

Reading

All readings will be available electronically via the class's TED page. There is not much reading for this course. But you are expected to read the material very carefully. Almost all of the reading consists of secondary texts. They are subject to change.

Academic Integrity

Any violations of academic integrity will be turned over to the Dean of Judicial Affairs. Details regarding what counts as cheating can be found here: academicintegrity.ucsd.edu. Consult the site or an instructor if you have any doubts or questions regarding what counts as cheating. All research papers will be run through the Turnitin service, which will determine whether the author has plagiarized from other papers or from Internet sources.

Contact

I am available at my office hours (HSS 8061) every Wednesday from 2 to 3:30. If you cannot attend at that time, you should feel free to make an appointment by talking to me in person, or by contacting me by email.

Readings & Topics

We will read in the order designated below. This list is tentative. It is likely that more readings will be added. Any such changes will be announced in class.

| Era | | Historical Philosopher(s) | Title of Work | Work Author |
|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Ancient | 1. | Aristotle | 'Aristotle: Ethics and Politics' | Fred D. Miller Jr. |
| | 2. | Epicurus | 'Freedom, Death, and Hedonism' | Phillip Mitsis |
| | 3. | Zeno, Seneca, Epictetus, Marcus Aurelius | 'Stoicism' | Phillip Mitsis |
| | 4. | Pyrrho, Sextus Empiricus | 'Ancient Skepticism' | Richard Bett |
| Medieval | 5. | Boethius | 'The Consolation of Philosophy' Book I. | Anicius Manlius Severinus Boethius |
| | 6. | St. Thomas Aquinas | 'Thomism' | Colleen McCluskey |
| | 7. | Suarez, Grotius, Hobbes, Pufendorf | 'Nature, Law, and Natural Law' | T.H. Irwin |
| Early Modern | 8. | Henry David Rousseau | 'Rousseau and Ethics' | Christopher Betram |
| | 9. | Descartes, Malebranche, Leibniz, Spinoza | 'Rationalism' | Maria Rosa Antognazza |
| | 10. | David Hume | 'Hume's Place in the History of Ethics' | Annette Baier |
| Modern | 11. | Adam Smith | 'Adam Smith' | James Otteson |
| | 12. | Immanuel Kant | 'Kant's Moral Philosophy' | Andrew Reath |
| | 13. | Schiller, Kierkegaard, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche | 'Post-Kantianism' | Otfried Höffe |
| | 14. | Hegel, Karl Marx | 'Hegel and Marx' | Terry Pinkard |
| 19 th Century | 15. | H.H. Price, H.A. Prichard, W.D. Ross | 'Rational Intuitionism' | Philip-Stratton Lake |
| | 16. | J.S. Mill | 'J.S. Mill' | Henry R. West |
| | 17. | Henry Sidgwick | 'Sidgwick' | Bart Schultz |
| Contemporary | 18. | G.E. Moore, B. Russell, C.D. Broad, C. Stevenson, R. Carnap, A. Ayer, P. Geach | 'Ethics in the Analytic Tradition' | W.J. Mander |
| | 19. | [various] | 'Constructing Practical Ethics' | Daniel Jamieson |