

UCF Philosophy Department
Dr. Mark Fagiano
Tu/Thurs 9:00-10:15 p.m.

Ethical Theory

PHH 3670-0001

Class location: PSY 0111

Office Hours: T/Th 10:30-12 or by appt

Office Location: PSY 244

Email: Mark.Fagiano@ucf.edu

Course Description:

Ethics is the study and enactment of human flourishing in life, but what does it mean to flourish in life? And what is the difference between ethics and morality? Are there fundamental moral principles that are available to all persons and ought to guide us in the decisions we make, or is “morality” a matter of personal taste based on the individual’s judgment? To what extent do our circumstances influence our ethical or moral judgments; and concomitantly, to what degree does context or experience shape what we determine to be good or bad? In this course, we will investigate how philosophers address these and other questions for the purpose of exploring how their answers might influence our lives.

Required Texts:

- Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*, ISBN: 9780872204645.
- Kant. *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*. ISBN: 9780872201668.
- Mill. *Utilitarianism*, ISBN: 9780872206052 .
- Nietzsche. *On the Genealogy of Morals and Ecce Homo*, ISBN: 9780679724629.

** Additional handouts to be posted on Canvas or provided to the student as hard copies.

Recommended secondary source:

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy <http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html>

Grading Details (Assignments and/or Tests/Exams):

- Participation=5%
- Online Discussion Posts=20%
- Midterm=25%
- Final=25%
- Final Project=25%

5% Participation—Your presence is expected at every class and your participation is both invited and necessary. Although the participation part of your grade is the easiest part to earn, you will lose percentage points if you miss more than **two classes**. Specifically, because your sentience, intelligence, and reflection are greatly desired at each and every class, every unexcused absence (after two) takes a **1/2 of a percentage point** off your final grade. Excused absences (see the full list below) must be supported with a note from your doctor, coach, family, etc. All other absences count against your final grade. **It will be impossible to pass this class if you miss class excessively.** More than just being present for each and every class, participation includes actively engaging with the material by asking question or making comments during class time, especially during small group discussions. ***Note also: if you do not have your book or other materials on a given class day, it is nearly the same as not being there and you will lose participation points.***

20% Online Discussion Posts—Every other week, students will be required to enter a short analytical reflection/discussion post online. Each entry will be an answer to a prompt provided by the professor. For each discussion post, student's will defend at least two claims based on their critical analysis of the reading and in relation to the provided prompt.

25% Midterm—The midterm on **October 18th** will consist of short answer questions and essays prompts based on lectures, in-class discussions, and the assigned readings. The class day before the midterm will be entirely devoted to reviewing the material for the exam, and I post a list of testable concepts/ideas online before the review session. **Students MUST BRING A GREENBOOK EXAM BOOK for the MIDTERM.**

25%--Final—The final (T.B.A) will take place during our scheduled time. It will follow the same plan, structure, and format as the midterm. **Students MUST ALSO BRING A GREENBOOK EXAM BOOK for the FINAL.**

25% Final Project—For the final project, you will create a short story/scenario for a Virtual Reality computer software system.

Late Work, Absences: Late work will be penalized by one-half of a letter grade for each day they are late. Students with excused absences may be excused from penalty if the excuse is received promptly. Excuses received at the end of the semester may not remove late penalties for work assigned in advance of the excused period.

There are NO MAKE UPS for any parts of this course without an excused absence:

Legitimate Excuses: college-sponsored activities closely linked to academics or to other official college functions (administrative, athletic, etc.); student illness or injury—with a note from health services—as well as critical illness/death in one’s immediate family; jury duty (or subpoena for court appearance); religious holidays.

Laptops and Phones

Laptops and phone are allowed in class if and only if they are being used for taking notes or, in certain circumstances, for research. If you use your either your laptop or phone for other purposes in class (or your phone makes noise), it will be confiscated, then returned at the end of class. Repeated offense will result in a lowering of your grade.

Incompletes: The grade of incomplete will be given only in special circumstances such as an illness, an accident, or a death in the family.

Tentative Class Schedule:

		Session content	Material to be read prior to session
			Reading 8/23 – NONE
	Week One 8/21	Class One: Syllabus overview	Reading for 8/28: ON CANVAS <i>Excerpt on Plato</i>
	8/23	Class Two: The Axial Age: Transformations in China, India, Persia, Judea, and Greece.	Reading for 8/30 <i>Nicomachean Ethics: Books I and II</i>

	<p>Week Eight 10/9</p> <p>10/11</p>	<p>Class Fifteen: Group Discussion</p> <p>Class Sixteen: Spinoza's Ethics</p>	<p>Reading for 10/16: NONE</p> <p>Reading for 10/18: NONE</p>
	<p>Week Nine 10/16</p> <p>10/18</p>	<p>Class Seventeen: MIDTERM REVIEW</p> <hr/> <p>Class Eighteen: MIDTERM</p>	<p>Reading for 10/23: Chapter I -- Utilitarianism</p> <hr/> <p>Reading for 10/25: II—What Utilitarianism Is</p>
	<p>Week Ten 10/23</p> <p>10/25</p>	<p>Class Nineteen: Utilitarianism Bentham v. J.S. Mill</p> <p>Class Twenty: Of the Ultimate Sanction of the Principle of Utility</p>	<p>Reading for 10/30: Chapter III—Of the Ultimate Sanction of the Principle of Utility</p> <p>Reading for 11/1: Nietzsche— Genealogy Intro and First Essay</p>

	<p>Week Eleven 10/30</p> <p>11/1</p>	<p>Class Twenty-one: On What Sort of Proof the Principle of Utility is Susceptible.</p> <p>Pragmatism, Relationality, and Meliorism</p> <hr/> <p>Class Twenty-two: Nietzsche—On the Genealogy of Morals Morality, Language, and Power</p>	<p>Reading for 11/6: Nietzsche— Genealogy Second Essay</p> <hr/> <p>Reading for 11/8: Nietzsche— Genealogy Third Essay</p>
	<p>Week Twelve 11/6</p> <p>11/8</p>	<p>Class Twenty-three Bad Conscience, Guilt, Psychology. Discussion Groups</p> <p>Class Twenty-four: Ascetic Ideals Schopenhauer and the Will</p>	<p>Reading for 11/13: Reading works for project group work</p> <p>Reading for 11/15: Reading works for project group work</p>
	<p>Week Thirteen 11/13</p> <p>11/15</p>	<p>Class Twenty-five <i>Environmental Ethics</i> <i>Business Ethics</i> Groups/Final Paper Research</p>	<p>Reading for 11/20 Kenny: 311-316 B and K: 540-558</p> <p>Reading for 11/22 No Reading</p>

		Class Twenty-six: SMALL GROUPS—Final Project	
Week Fourteen 11/20		Class Twenty-seven: In Class: Work on Final Project THANKSGIVING	Reading for 11/27: NONE/Study for Final
11/22			Reading for 11/29: NONE/Study for Final
Week Fifteen 11/27		Class Twenty-eight: In Class: Work on Final Project Class Twenty-nine REVIEW FINAL FINAL DATE and TIME: T.B.A.	
11/29			
		FINAL Paper—Due—December 8th	

Academic Honesty

The integrity of students and their written and oral work is a critical component of the academic process. The submission of another's work as one's own is plagiarism and will be dealt with using the procedures outlined in the University of Tennessee catalog. Remember that allowing another student to copy one's own work violates standards of academic integrity.

Examples of cheating include but are not limited to:

1. The unauthorized possession or use of notes, texts, electronic devices (e.g., computers, mobile phones), online materials or other such unauthorized materials/devices in fulfillment of course requirements.
2. Copying another's person work or participation in such an effort.
3. An attempt or participation in an attempt to fulfill the requirements of the course with work other than one's own.
4. Forging or deliberately misrepresenting data or results.
5. Obtaining or offering either for profit or free of charge materials one might submit or has submitted for academic credit. This includes uploading course materials to online sites devoted in whole or in part, to aiding and abetting cheating under the guise of providing "study aids." There is no prohibition concerning uploading exemplars one's work to one's personal website or to departmental, divisional, University or professional society websites for the purposes of publicity, praise, examination or review by potential employers, graduate school admissions committees, etc.
6. Violating the specific directions concerning the operation of the honor code in relation to a particular assignment.
7. Making unauthorized copies of graded work for future distribution.
8. Claiming credit for a group project to which one did not contribute.