



Hankuk University of Foreign Studies

2018 Summer Session

PHIL 201 Introduction to Ethics

Course Outline

Course Code: PHIL 201

Instructor: Dr. Faraz Sheikh

Home Institution: College of William & Mary

Office Hours: TBA and by Appointment

Email: fmsheikh@wm.edu

Credit: 4

Class Hours:

This course will have 72 total class hours, including 40 lecture hours, 12 instructor office hours, 12-hours of TA-led discussion sessions (four sessions of 3 hour each), 8 hours of review sessions (four review sessions, 2 hours each).

Course Description

What does it mean to be a good person? What kind of life is a good life? What is the right or the good thing for me to do in this situation? Also, how can I or anyone find answers to these big questions? Is knowledge of what is right enough to do the right thing? These are the types of questions that the study of ethics tries to answer. In this course, we will examine thinkers from across times and places in order to examine how human beings have answered such questions. Throughout, we will think about the potential relevance of these answers to our lives today as human beings living in the 21st century and in a hyper-connected world. We will examine how larger beliefs about reality inform people's views about ethics and values and also how those values are reflected in the kinds of cultural, social and political institutions that those individuals and societies create. Our focus will be to see and understand the ethics of everyday life i.e. we will study how morality and ethical deliberation forms an integral part of our everyday lives and is not restricted to solving ethical dilemmas. Students will be able to understand how moral judgements and values play an important part in our lives despite the challenges that multi-culturalism and moral relativism pose to ethical reflection in a globalized world. In addition to covering general theories and approaches to ethics, we will also examine ethical values and moral reasoning as they pertain to particular human contexts such as war, medicine, education, politics and business. Real life case-studies will be used wherever possible to enhance students' grasp of key ethical concepts and theories. No prior knowledge of philosophy or ethics is required.



Required Texts

There is one textbook for this class. It is

An Introduction to Ethics (henceforth IE)

AUTHOR: John Deigh

DATE PUBLISHED: April 2010

FORMAT: Paperback

ISBN: 978052177597

In addition to these textbooks, journal articles, case-studies and book chapters will be used that will be placed as pdfs on the course website or blackboard.

Course Requirements

First Reflection Paper (4-5 pages, double-spaced, 12 font)	20%
Mid-Term Exam* (short answer questions)	20%
Second Reflection Paper (4-5 pages, double-spaced, 12 font)	20%
Final Exam* (Two Essay Questions)	20%
Attendance (includes preparation and class participation)	20%

*Exams will be closed books, **open notes**.

Grading Scale (%age)

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
55-59%	D-
54% and below	F (no pass)

Course Policies

1. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class.
2. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please consult with writing handbooks and writing tutors before all written assignments are turned in. Plagiarism includes not citing existing ideas, concepts and theories taken from others, in addition to the words of others used in verbatim. Be familiar with the program's policy on cheating and plagiarism.
3. Laptops and other electronic devices may be used during class for course-related purposes, except during exams. Electronic devices shall not be used to make for calls or personal text/email messages.



4. Instructor will respond to emails as promptly as possible. In-person appointments with the instructor can be made by email.
5. Please be respectful of your fellow students' thoughts and opinions. While active discussions are encouraged, part of the course objective is to learn that people have different beliefs and perspectives and everyone must be treated with equal respect and dignity.
6. It is your responsibility to keep the instructor updated on any information pertaining to the course. Check your email regularly for instructions and readings.

Detailed Weekly Course Schedule (Remember, IE refers to the textbook, Intro to Ethics)

Week One Human Nature and Ethical Theories I

- Mon Introductions; Charles Matthewes “Good and Evil” and “Duty, law and Conscience”
- Tues What is Ethics? Moral Relativism IE pg. 1-24; James Rachel “Elements of Moral Philosophy”
- Wed Happiness and Egoism; Thomas Hobbes; IE pg. 25-55
- Thurs Eudaimonism: Epicurius, Mill and Plato; IE pg 56-76; Excerpts from Plato’s Dialogues
- Fri Ethical Naturalism: Aristotle I; IE pg 77-92; Excerpts from Nichomachean Ethics; Contemporary Eudaimonism, Excerpts from Macintyre’s After Virtue
- TA Discussion # One (3 hours);
Reflection Paper # One due by 5 pm;
Office Hours 9 am- 12 noon

Week Two Human Nature and Ethical Theories II

- Mon Aristotle II: Friendship, Cultivation of Virtue and Happiness, Excerpts from Nichomachean Ethics
- Tues Mill’s Utilitarianism, IE pg. 93-122
- Wed Deontological Ethics and Divine command ethics: IE pg. 123-156
- Thurs Rationalism and Ethics: Kant and the invention of Autonomy; IE pg. 157-182
Review Session One (2 hours)
- Fri Existentialist Ethics, IE pg. 183-195; Excerpts from Charles Taylor’s The Ethics of Authenticity
- TA Discussion # TWO (3 hours)
Office Hours 9 am- 12 noon

Week Three Moral Agency and Ethical Responsibility?



- Mon Practical Reason and Ethics, IE pg 196-232
- Tues A Critique of Ethics: Excerpts from Nietzsche’s Beyond Good and Evil; Arnold Davidson, “Ethics as Ascetics”
- Wed Models of Moral Agency: Neibuhr’s The Responsible Self
- Thurs Religion and Ethics I: Buddhist Ethics, Selections from Damien Keown, Buddhist Ethics: a very short Introduction
Review Session Two (2 hours)
- Fri Religion and Ethics II: Christian Ethics, Selections from Aaron Stalnaker, Overcoming Our Evil
- TA Discussion # THREE (3 hours)
Office Hours 9 am- 12 noon

Week Four Topics in Religion and Ethics: Biomedicine, War and Politics

- Mon Religion and Ethics III: Islamic Ethics, Kevin Reinhart, Islamic law as Islamic ethics
- Tues Biomedical Ethics; Selections from James Childress, Principles of Biomedical Ethics
- Wed War and Ethics: Selections from Michael Walzer’s Just and Unjust Wars
- Thurs Political Ethics and Liberal Democracy: Selections from John Rawls’ Political Liberalism and Akeel Bilgrami, “Secularism and enlightenment”
Review Session Three (2 hours)
- Fri Global Ethics: A capabilities approach; Selections from Martha Nussbaum’s Creating Capabilities
- TA Discussion # FOUR (3 hours)
Office Hours 9 am- 12 noon

Week Five Applied Ethics in the Modern World: Environmental Ethics and Human Rights

- Mon Environmental Ethics: Deep Ecology and its Critics. Guha, “Radical American Environmentalism: a third world critique”; Excerpts from Lisa Sideris, Environmental Ethics
- Tues Social Ethics: Selections from Susan Moller Okin’s Justice, Gender and the family
- Wed Professional Ethics I: Selections from Craig E. Johnson’s Ethics in the workplace
- Thurs Professional Ethics II: Extremism and the War on Terror, Selections from Michael Skerker, An Ethics of Interrogation



Review Session Four (2 hours)

Fri **Final Exam**

