PHIL 330 (Hybrid)
Ethics

Summer Session 14/15
Session Dates – June 1 to July 25, 2015

Course Description
Examination of various moral philosophers’ attempts to prescribe ethical norms applicable to all humanity.

Prerequisite: Junior standing

Class Day and Time: Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

This is a hybrid course which is defined as an online course supported by a weekly in-seat class. Our class will consist both in-seat and online instruction through various resources, discussion and homework. Please note that we will meet every week, unless otherwise noted.

You are expected to attend every class. If you know prior to the beginning of the session that you will miss more than one in-seat class, it is strongly recommended that you wait to take this course at another time.

The online portion of our course is located in D2L. You will access the course through CougarTrack.

Textbooks


Textbooks for the course may be ordered from MBS Direct:

- online at http://direct.mbsbooks.com/columbia.htm
- by phone at 800-325-3252

For additional information about the bookstore, visit http://www.mbsbooks.com.

Course Overview
This course is an examination of the three fundamental approaches to theoretical ethics as presented by their three most famous advocates: Aristotle, Immanuel Kant and John Stuart Mill.
Technology Requirements

Participation in this course will require the basic technology for all online classes at Columbia College:

- A computer with reliable Internet access,
- A web browser,
- Acrobat Reader,
- Microsoft Office or another word processor such as Open Office.

You can find more details about standard technical requirements for our courses on our site.

Course Objectives

- To understand three basic approaches to philosophical ethics, i.e., consequentialism, deontology, and virtue theory.
- To evaluate theoretical approaches to ethics in order to formulate a personal approach to ethics that is coherent and defensible.

Measurable Learning Outcomes

- Read classic philosophical prose (specifically classical theoretical ethics) for critical understanding.
- Explain the three basic approaches to philosophical ethics, i.e., consequentialism, deontology, and virtue ethics.
- Formalize sophisticated philosophical arguments found in theoretical ethics.
- Identify problems and weaknesses in the basic approaches to theoretical ethics.
- Analyze and provide criticisms of sophisticated philosophical arguments found in theoretical ethics.
- Formally present possible solutions to problems found in theoretical ethics.

Grading

Grading Scale

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<td>90-100%</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
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Grade Weights

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Points</th>
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<td>In Class Participation</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion: Reflection</td>
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<td>30%</td>
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<td>(6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1: Mill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2: Kant</td>
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<td>Exam 3: Aristotle</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Schedule of Graded Assignments

| Week | Assignment | Points | Due Online | Due In-Seat |
|------|------------|--------|------------|-------------|-------------|
|      |            |        |            |             |             |
Assignment Overview

In Class Participation

This is a hybrid course, which means that it is an online course supported by a weekly in-seat class. A portion of your grade each week will be based on your preparedness and participation in classroom discussions or group work. In order to earn these points, you must attend the in-seat class.

Discussion: Reflection (Online)

You will participate in a total of six reflection discussions throughout the session. Please see the Schedule of Due Dates and/or the Course Schedule sections of this syllabus for specific weeks. For each discussion, you are asked to thoroughly answer the question posed, showing your familiarity with the readings and course topics, and reply to your classmates’ responses. In order to receive full credit, your responses must be reflective and engage your classmates in a meaningful discussion.

Exams (In Class)

Exam 1: Mill

The exam consists of four (4) questions drawn from the Mill readings and discussions (Weeks 1-2). Each question is worth 5 points. The exam must be taken during the in-seat portion of the class using a
maximum of 90 minutes. This is a closed book exam. You are not allowed to reference any notes, books, flash drives, the Internet, or another person while taking the exam.

**Exam 2: Kant**

The exam consists of four (4) questions drawn from the Kant readings and discussions (Weeks 3-5). Each question is worth 5 points. The exam must be taken during the in-seat portion of the class using a maximum of 90 minutes. This is a closed book exam. You are not allowed to reference any notes, books, flash drives, the Internet, or another person while taking the exam.

**Exam 3: Aristotle**

The exam consists of four (4) questions drawn from the Aristotle readings and discussions (Weeks 6-8). Each question is worth 5 points. The exam must be taken during the in-seat portion of the class using a maximum of 90 minutes. This is a closed book exam. You are not allowed to reference any notes, books, flash drives, the Internet, or another person while taking the exam.

## Course Schedule

**Week 1: Mill**

**Readings (Before Class)**

- Mill, pp. 6-20

**In Class Participation 1**

During the in-seat portion of the class, activities will focus on topics from the readings and questions that you and your classmates have from the week’s information. You must be in attendance to receive credit.

**Discussion: Reflection 1 (Online)**

For this discussion, you will answer and/or respond to the following in the appropriate forum.

- The study of ethics is philosophical in nature; it is the attempt to determine the right and wrong features of our acts. But if could have practical implications as well. Take some time to think about what those might be. Present your conclusions here in a careful and articulate manner.

- For the philosopher, "because God said so" is an unsatisfactory answer to the question "why is act X moral (or immoral)?" Carefully explain why that is so.

**Week 2: Mill**

**Readings (Before Class)**

- Mill: pp. 20-26 of Chapter 2
- Mill: pp. 35-41 of Chapter 4

**In Class Participation 2**

During the in-seat portion of the class, activities will focus on topics from the readings and questions that you and your classmates have from the week’s information. You must be in attendance to receive credit.

**Discussion: Reflection 2 (Online)**

For this discussion, you will answer and/or respond to the following questions in the appropriate forum.
• One might believe that in order to live well and good the child does not require a better answer to his question than the one offered. Do you believe this? In other words, do you believe that it is possible to live a moral life without knowing why it is a moral life? Or do you believe that to live morally you are required to have a philosophical basis for your beliefs about ethics?

• Consider again the Pleasure Machine mentioned in the reading questions from Week One. Would you get in the machine? Carefully explain why or why not.

**Week 3: Exam on Mill; Kant**

**Readings (Before Class)**

- Kant, pp. 61-65

**Exam 1: Mill (In Class)**

The exam consists of four (4) questions drawn from the Mill readings and discussions (Weeks 1-2). Each question is worth 5 points. The exam must be taken during the in seat portion of the class using a maximum of 90 minutes. This is a closed book exam. You are not allowed to reference any notes, books, flash drives, the Internet, or another person while taking the exam.

**Week 4: Kant**

**Readings (Before Class)**

- Kant, pp. 65-73

**In Class Participation 3**

During the in-seat portion of the class, activities will focus on topics from the readings and questions that you and your classmates have from the week’s information. You must be in attendance to receive credit.

**Discussion: Reflection 3 (Online)**

For this discussion, you will answer and/or respond to the following questions in the appropriate forum.

- Utilitarianism is a deceptively simple moral theory that has quite a bit of intuitive appeal. But it also has its share of problems. How plausible do you find this account of the right making feature of acts? Clearly and carefully explain your answer.

- J.S. Mill's view is that there is no sense of good beyond what people think is good. Whatever anyone thinks is good for its own sake, Mill calls that "happiness." Therefore, only happiness, i.e., whatever we think is good for its own sake, is good for its own sake. Do you think this is true? Carefully explain why or why not?

**Week 5: Kant**

**Readings (Before Class)**

- Kant, pp. 74-98
  - “Schiller’s Lament” (In Content)
  - “What a Piece of Work is Man” (In Content)
In Class Participation 4
During the in-seat portion of the class, activities will focus on topics from the readings and questions that you and your classmates have from the week's information. You must be in attendance to receive credit.

Discussion: Reflection 4 (Online)
For this discussion, you will answer and/or respond to the following questions in the appropriate forum.

- Kant's view is diametrically opposed to utilitarianism. At least one of these views must be incorrect. What do you think? Which of these views is more plausible?
- Kant's view is based upon a particular view of the kind of thing that you and I are. If he is correct, then it is both thrilling and sobering to realize that one is such an entity. Spend some time reflecting on his view. What are your reactions?

Week 6: Exam on Kant; Aristotle

Readings (Before Class)
- Aristotle, pp. 1-10

Exam 2: Kant (In Class)
The exam consists of four (4) questions drawn from the Kant readings and discussions (Weeks 3-5). Each question is worth 5 points. The exam must be taken during the in seat portion of the class using a maximum of 90 minutes. This is a closed book exam. You are not allowed to reference any notes, books, flash drives, the Internet, or another person while taking the exam.

Week 7: Aristotle

Readings (Before Class)
- Aristotle, pp. 10-30

In Class Participation 5
During the in-seat portion of the class, activities will focus on topics from the readings and questions that you and your classmates have from the week's information. You must be in attendance to receive credit.

Discussion: Reflection 5 (Online)
For this discussion, you will answer and/or respond to the following questions in the appropriate forum.

- According to Kant, suicide to avoid suffering and unhappiness is strictly immoral. Do you agree?
- Aristotle's view is that happiness just is living virtuously. Do you agree? Do most of us just have it wrong about what happiness and the happy life really is?

Week 8: Exam on Aristotle; Reflections, Review, and Wrap-Up

Exam 3: Aristotle (In Class)
The exam consists of four (4) questions drawn from the Aristotle readings and discussions (Weeks 6-8). Each question is worth 5 points. The exam must be taken during the in seat portion of the class using a maximum of 90 minutes. This is a closed book exam. You are not allowed to reference any notes, books, flash drives, the Internet, or another person while taking the exam.
Discussion: Reflection 6 (Online)

For this discussion, you will answer and/or respond to the following questions in the appropriate forum.

- Is it more laudable to be virtuous or continent? That is, is it better to be the moral saint or the moral hero?
- At this point you have studied the three approaches to moral theory. Which do you find most convincing?

Course Policies

Student Conduct

All Columbia College students, whether enrolled in a land-based or online course, are responsible for behaving in a manner consistent with Columbia College's [Student Conduct Code](#) and [Acceptable Use Policy](#). Students violating these policies will be referred to the office of Student Affairs and/or the office of Academic Affairs for possible disciplinary action. The Student Code of Conduct and the Computer Use Policy for students can be found in the Columbia College [Student Handbook](#). The Handbook is available online; you can also obtain a copy by calling the Student Affairs office (Campus Life) at 573-875-7400. The teacher maintains the right to manage a positive learning environment, and all students must adhere to the conventions of online etiquette.

Plagiarism

Your grade will be based in large part on the originality of your ideas and your written presentation of these ideas. Presenting the words, ideas, or expression of another in any form as your own is plagiarism. Students who fail to properly give credit for information contained in their written work (papers, journals, exams, etc.) are violating the intellectual property rights of the original author. For proper citation of the original authors, you should reference the appropriate publication manual for your degree program or course (APA, MLA, etc.). Violations are taken seriously in higher education and may result in a failing grade on the assignment, a grade of "F" for the course, or dismissal from the College.

Collaboration conducted between students without prior permission from the instructor is considered plagiarism and will be treated as such. Spouses and roommates taking the same course should be particularly careful.

All required papers may be submitted for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers may be included in the Turnitin.com reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. This service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com site.

A plagiarism tutorial is located in the content area of the D2L website. Additionally, work that was completed in a prior course and submitted in the current course will not be accepted.

Non-Discrimination

There will be no discrimination on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, ideology, political affiliation, veteran status, age, physical handicap, or marital status.

Disability Services

Students with documented disabilities who may need academic services for this course are required to register with the Coordinator for Disability Services at (573) 875-7626. Until the student has been
cleared through the disability services office, accommodations do not have to be granted. If you are a student who has a documented disability, it is important for you to read the entire syllabus before enrolling in the course. The structure or the content of the course may make an accommodation not feasible.

**Attendance Policy**

Attendance for a week will be counted as having submitted a course assignment for which points have been earned during that week of the session or if the proctoring information has been submitted or the plagiarism quiz taken if there is no other assignment due that week. A class week is defined as the period of time between Monday and Sunday (except for Week 8, when the week ends in accordance with the campus end date). The course and system deadlines are all based on the Central Time Zone.

**Email**

All students are provided a CougarMail account when they enroll in classes at Columbia College. You are responsible for monitoring email from that account for important messages from the College and from your instructor. You may forward your Cougar email account to another account; however, the College cannot be held responsible for breaches in security or service interruptions with other email providers.

Students should use email for private messages to the instructor and other students. The class discussions are for public messages so the class members can each see what others have to say about any given topic and respond.

**Late Assignment Policy**

A hybrid class requires regular participation and a commitment to your instructor and your classmates to regularly engage in the reading, discussion and writing assignments. Although most of the communication for this course is asynchronous, you must be able to commit to the schedule of work for the class for the next eight weeks. You must keep up with the schedule of reading and writing to successfully complete the class.

**Additional Resources**

**Orientation for New Students**

This course is offered online, using course management software provided by Desire2Learn and Columbia College. The [Student Manual](#) provides details about taking an online course at Columbia College. You may also want to visit the [course demonstration](#) to view a sample course before this one opens.

**Technical Support**

If you have problems accessing the course or posting your assignments, contact your instructor, the Columbia College Helpdesk, or the D2L Helpdesk for assistance. Contact information is also available within the online course environment.

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<th>Email</th>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:CCHelpDesk@ccis.edu">CCHelpDesk@ccis.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:helpdesk@desire2learn.com">helpdesk@desire2learn.com</a></td>
<td>877-325-7778</td>
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**Online Tutoring**
Smarthinking is a free online tutoring service available to all Columbia College students. Smarthinking provides real-time online tutoring and homework help for Math, English, and Writing. The Writing Center can be used for writing assistance in any course.

Smarthinking also provides access to live tutorials in writing and math, as well as a full range of study resources, including writing manuals, sample problems, and study skills manuals. You can access the service from wherever you have a Connection to the Internet. I encourage you to take advantage of this free service provided by the college.

Access Smarthinking through CougarTrack under Students->Academics->Academic Resources.