

Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici

2019 Summer Program

PHIL 201 Introduction to Ethics

Course Outline

Term: June 17-July 19, 2019

Class Hours: 8:00-9:50AM (Monday through Friday)

Course Code: PHIL 201

Instructor: Dr. Faraz Sheikh

Home Institution: College of William & Mary

Office Hours: TBA

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.

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 (1-2 pages, double-spaced, 12 font)	20%
Mid-Term Exam*	20%
Second Reflection Paper (1-2 pages, double-spaced, 12 font)	20%
Final Exam*	20%
Attendance (includes preparation and class participation)	20%

*Exams will be Open 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, Introduction to Ethics)

Week One Human Nature and Ethical Theories I

Mon	Introductions; Charles Matthewes "Duty, law and Conscience"
Tues	What is Ethics? Moral Relativism IE pg. 1-24
Wed	Happiness and Egoism; Thomas Hobbes; IE pg. 25-43
Thurs	Hobbes's Egoism and its problems, IE pg. 43-55
Fri	TA Discussion # One (3 hours) Office Hours 9 am- 12 noon

Week Two Human Nature and Ethical Theories II

Mon	Eudaimonism and Plato, IE pg. 56-81
Tues	Aristotle's Naturalism, IE pg. 81-92
Wed	Mill's Utilitarianism, IE pg. 93-122
Thurs	Deontological Ethics and Divine command ethics: IE pg. 123-140
Fri	Review Session One (2 hours) Reflection Paper # One due by 5 pm TA Discussion # TWO (3 hours) Office Hours 9 am- 12 noon

Week Three Moral Agency and Responsibility

Mon	Kant's Way, IE pg. 140-157
Tues	Ethics of Self-determination, IE pg. 157-171

Wed Existentialism – The Underground Man, IE pg. 171-195

Thurs Practical Reason I, IE pg. 196 - 213

Fri **Mid-Term Exam**
TA Discussion # THREE (3 hours)
Review Session Two (2 hours)
Office Hours 9 am- 12 noon

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

Mon Practical Reason II, IE pg. 213- 232

Tues Biomedical Ethics; Selections from James Childress, *Principles of Biomedical Ethics* pg. 189-218

Wed Childress, Biomedical ethics, pg. 219-249

Thurs Childress, Biomedical ethics pg. 259-290

Fri Childress, Biomedical ethics pg. 291-325
Reflection Paper # Two due by 5 pm
Review Session Three (2 hours)
TA Discussion # FOUR (3 hours)
Office Hours 9 am- 12 noon

Week Five Environment, Religion and Ethics

Mon Religion and Ethics I: Buddhist Ethics, Selections from Damien Keown, *Buddhist Ethics: a very short Introduction*

Tues Religion and Ethics II: Selections from *Christian Ethics: A short Introduction*

Wed Religion and Ethics: “Islamic law as Islamic ethics” by Kevin Reinhart

Thurs Environmental Ethics – Theocentric perspectives and Deep ecology, Lisa Sideris

Fri **Final Exam**