

PHI2600 INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS
PHI2600-U012 /11-12:15 pm /PC447
PHI2600-U17 / 12:30-1:45pm/PC443
Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Scarbrough
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Course Description:

This class is a brief introduction to moral theory and applied ethics. The first part of the course will focus on three big moral theories: Utilitarianism, Kantianism, and Virtue Ethics. These theories present accounts of what makes an action right or wrong, what makes a person virtuous or vicious, and what role an ethical theory should play in a good life. Some of the applied ethical topics discussed will include: whether we have an obligation to follow the law, our obligations to global famine relief, abortion, animal rights, and oppression.

Learning Objectives:

Your skills will be developed and tested in three ways:

- (1) **Reading Comprehension:** involves close reading all the assigned texts;
- (2) **Philosophical Writing:** involves completing a variety of written assignments designed to teach you how good philosophical writing differs from other familiar types of writing (this is a Gordon's Rule course);
- (3) **Class Discussion:** involves actively, respectfully engaging with your peers and instructor about philosophically complex, abstract theories that have implications for how we should make choices and live our lives.

Success in this course requires you to prepare yourself for class discussion by reading critically, to defend your own views with reasons and arguments, and to give a good faith effort to develop your philosophical skills, both verbally and in writing.

Required Texts:

(1)Cahn, Steven M., ed. *Exploring Ethics: An Introductory Anthology*, 4th ed or 5th ed (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017). (\$45-55 new, \$15-30 used, \$15-25 rental)

This book is required, and you must bring it to class. You may not bring an electronic copy to class.³

The student resources available with this text will be a big help to you:

<http://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780190273637/stud/>

(2) Movies: You must also watch 2 movies during the course of this class. These movies may be available for free on YouTube, or at the FIU library (Kanopy) or on DVD. You might also be required to purchase a rental for \$1.99 each so please factor that into your budget. You will be responsible for tracking these movies down to watch them. (\$4)

(3) Bluebook: We will be periodically writing in our bluebooks. (Blue book \$2)

(4) CANVAS: All other texts will be made available to you in PDF form on CANVAS.

Total Cost: \$22-\$62

¹ **Office hours:** If you cannot make these times I am *more than happy* to set up another time for you! Just email three times you are available to meet and I will most likely be able to make one of those three times.

² **Office hours:** I have an appointment system for my office hours. You sign up through appointy (escarbro.appointy.com). Come to office hours if you want to go over an assignment, talk about the course, or talk about philosophy in general! Office hours are a way for you to have free tutoring from you professor.

³ This course has a **NO SCREENS policy**. This means you must bring your text in physical form. If you believe you need an electronic devise to do well in this course, you must come talk to me during office hours to receive a pass on this requirement. Escarbro.appointy.com

Evaluation Criteria:

Instructions for each assignment can be found on CANVAS. This class is graded out of 100 points. Assignments with a * by them cannot be handed in late.

I. Participation – total 22% or 22 points.

Participation 1 st half	5 point
Participation 2 nd half	5 points

Participation is key in this course and you need to be in class to participate. Therefore, you are allowed 3 absences in this class. I do not need to know why you are absent for these three.⁴ After three absences you will be deducted 2 points per absence.

In-class memos 1 st half*	4 points
In-class memos 2 nd half*	4 points

During class I will be asking you to write in your Bluebooks. These writing assignments will ask you to reflect on the reading in the course. I might also ask some multiple-choice questions here. The point of the memos is twofold: (1) to practice writing and (2) to encourage reading before class. Active participation requires having done the reading prior to class.

Midterm-grade reflection	2 point
Feedback reflection	2 point

I will ask you to calculate your midterm grade and write a few sentences reflecting on your performance at the halfway point. In week 10 I will also ask you to write a few sentences reflecting on the feedback you have received on your writing in this course.

II. Writing Assignments – 60% total or 60 points.

This is a Gordon Rule writing course. As such, writing is a large part of your grade.

Introduction	5 points
Exegesis	10 points
Argument	10 points
Conclusion	5 points
Final Paper Draft*	5 points
Final In-class Paper*	10 points
Apply an ethical theory movie journal 1	7.5 points
Apply an ethical theory movie journal 2	7.5 points

III. Ethics Challenges – 18% total or 18 points.

#1: Singer Challenge	3 points
#2: Kant CI#1 Challenge (CI Procedure)	3 points
#3: Kant CI#2 Challenge (Sweatshop)	3 points
#4: Aristotle Challenge	3 points
#5: Debate Challenge	3 points
#6: Poverty Challenge	3 points

IV. Extra Credit – up to 10% or 10 points.

There are a few ways to get extra credit in this course:

(1) **Philosophy Tutors** (book here: fiuphitutors.appointy.com)

If you bring a draft in advance of any writing assignment (not Ethics Challenges), you will receive +1. **OR** you may use the Philosophy Department Tutors to get a THREE-DAY LATE PASS on LATE ASSIGNMENTS. You must write at the top of your assignment: TUTOR 3 DAY PASS or TUTOR EC to receive either of these benefits.

(2) **Cell phone participation credit.**

If you have 3 or fewer absences and you hand in your phone for all of our sessions, you will receive +3 added to your final participation score.

⁴ These absences include: my car broke down, I booked a doctor's appointment I need to attend, my family is going on vacation, I needed to work, etc.

General Course Policies:

Grading Scale: A = 93-100%, A- = 90-92%, B+ = 87-89%, B = 83-86%, B- = 80-82%, C+ = 77-79%, C = 73-76%, C- = 70-72%, D+ = 67-69%, D = 63-66%, D- = 60-62%, E = 59% and below⁵

Class Etiquette: I expect you not to disrupt me, or other students, during class. If you are disruptive, I will ask you to leave the class. Disruptions may include texting on your phone, surfing the internet, talking with other students (not about course material), reading the paper, watching videos, doing work for other classes, etc. Disruptions will lower your participation grade. Additionally, I expect you to treat other students (and their opinions) with respect. *This includes not taking photos or videos of me or your fellow students without permission. No audio recording of lecture without prior consent of the instructor.*

Late Assignment Policy: Late written work will be penalized at 1 point a day (or part of a day) unless you have made prior arrangements with me. For example, if an assignment is worth 5 points, and you hand it in 4 days late, you can receive 1 point on that assignment.⁶ Assignments with a * by their name cannot be handed in late. These include: In-class Memos, Final Paper Outline, and the Final In-class Paper.

Academic Misconduct: Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarism, and unauthorized collaboration with other students on assignments. *Academic dishonesty disadvantages honest students and is clearly unfair to hardworking students. Instructors have a duty, therefore, to protect honest students, and to ensure that they are not disadvantaged by dishonest students.* For more information, see FIU's Academic Misconduct policy (Section 2.44). There are serious consequences for academic misconduct, including suspension and expulsion from the university. **All students suspected of plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Academic Misconduct and receive a "0" on their assignment.**

ACADEMIC CENTERS:

Philosophy Writing/Tutoring Center, DM 339B

<https://sites.google.com/view/fiuphitutors/home>
fiuphitutors.appointy.com

University Learning Center,
undergrad.fiu.edu/cas/learning-center, GL 120
Hours: Monday-Thursday 8-8 and Friday 8-5.
Tutoring assistance begins at 9:00 each day on both campuses.

CAS can help you with your reading skills, study techniques and grammar.

Disability Resource Center, GC 190
studentaffairs.fiu.edu/student-success/disability-resource-center

Hours: Monday-Thursday 8-6 and Friday 8-5
All accommodations should be discussed PRIOR to the due date of the assignment.

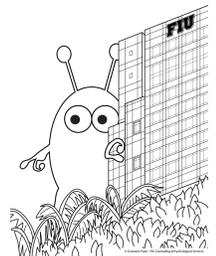
HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

Counseling and Psychological Services, SHC 270

<http://studentaffairs.fiu.edu/wellness/counseling-and-psychological-services/>
Open Monday-Wed 8-6:30 and Thur-Fri 8-5pm;
Same-day consultations Mon-Thurs 10-3 and Friday 11-3. If you are experiencing stress, depression, grief, or trauma, please take advantage of the counseling assistance at FIU.

Student Food Pantry, DM 166 (second location at BBC; see website)

<http://studentaffairs.fiu.edu/get-support/student-food-pantry>
Open Monday 12-3pm; Tues. 2-5:30pm; Weds. & Thurs. 2-5p



⁵ You are graded on the merit of your work (not your effort). If you believe you have been graded unfairly, I am willing to look over your work again, but be aware that I will re-evaluate it and provide you with a new grade. This means that there is a chance that your grade may go down because I may decide that I was too generous the first time.

⁶ An exception to this is the use of the Philosophy Tutor office. As stated under "extra credit," you may hand assignments in up to three days late with no penalty if you bring a draft of that assignment to the tutors. When handing it in, you must write "TUTOR 3 DAY PASS" on the assignment. Again, assignments with a * by their name may not be handed in late.



READING SCHEDULE

Week/Dates	Topic	Reading	Assignments
1 (Jan 7 & 9)	Introduction & Cultural Relativism	Tuesday: None Thursday: Rachels – “The Challenges of Cultural Relativism” <Journal 1a option for Friday>	-J1a option
2 (Jan 14 & 16)	Utilitarianism	Tuesday: Mill “Utilitarianism” Thursday: Pojman “Strengths and Weakness of Utilitarianism” <Journal 1b option for Friday>	Introduction due Friday 11:59pm -J1b option
3 (Jan 21 & 23)	Utilitarianism Applied	Tuesday: Singer “Famine, Affluence, and Morality” Thursday: No additional reading. Class activity.	Ethics Challenge #1 – Singer - due in class Tuesday
4 (Jan 28 & 30)	Kantianism	Tuesday: Kant – “The Categorical Imperative” Thursday: O’Neill “A Simplified Account of Kant’s Ethics”	Ethics Challenge #2 – Kant CI#1 – Due Thursday Exegesis due Friday 11:59pm
5 (Feb 4 & 6)	Kantianism Applied	Tuesday: O’Neil “Kantian Approaches to Some Famine Problems” PDF Thursday: No additional reading. Class activity. <Journal 1c option for Friday>	Ethics Challenge #3 – Sweatshop – Due Thursday Argument due Friday 11:59pm -J1c option
6 (Feb 11 & 13)	Virtue Ethics	Tuesday: Aristotle “The Nature of Virtue” Thursday: Driver “Virtue Ethics”	Ethics Challenge #4 – Aristotle – Due *next* Thursday – but start tracking today
7 (Feb 18 & 20)	Abortion	Tuesday: Hursthouse “Virtue Ethics and Abortion” Thursday: Marquis “Why Abortion is Immoral”	Ethics Challenge #4 due Thurs Conclusion due Friday 11:59pm

SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK Feb 25 & 27	Spring Break
8 (March 3 & 5)	Abortion / Animal Rights	Tuesday: Thomson “A Defense of Abortion” Thursday: David Foster Wallace “Consider the Lobster” PDF -Journal 2a option -	Participation-My Feedback reflection due Thursday -J2 Option a-
9 (March 10 & 12)	Animal Rights	Tuesday: Singer “On Animals” PDF Thursday: Regan “The Case for Animal Rights”	
10 (March 17 & No class 19th)	Animal Rights / No Class	Tuesday: Ko- Aphro-isms: Essay on Veganism from Two Sisters -(selections-PDF) NO CLASS THURSDAY	-J2 Option b-
11 (March 24 & 26)	DEBATE WEEK	Tuesday: Debate prep in class Thursday: DEBATE	Ethics Challenge#5: Debate Prep before class
12 (March 31 and April 2)	Pornography	Tuesday: Longino “Pornography, Oppression, and Freedom” Thursday: Feinberg “The Case Against Pornography” -Journal 2c option-	-J2 Option c- Participation – Feedback Reflection Friday 11:59pm
13 (April 7 & 9)	Oppression	Tuesday: Hay “A Feminist Kant?” PDF Thursday: Young “Five Faces of Oppression” PDF _Final journal 2d option -	-Final 2 nd journal option- Ethics Challenge #6: Poverty Friday 11:59pm
14 (April 14 & 16)	Paper Prep	Tuesday: Paper workshop / Course evals Thursday: Paper workshop	
15 (April 21 & 23)	FINAL IN CLASS ESSAY EXAM		

LIST OF ASSIGNMENT AND DUE DATES

*Indicates an OPTION for a journal (remember you only have to do one Journal 1 and one Journal 2)

<u>Date/Time Due</u>	<u>Where Due</u>	<u>Name Assignment</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Your Score</u>
Jan 10 11:59pm	Online	Journal 1a (option)	7.5	___
Jan 17 11:59pm	Online	Introduction	5	___
Jan 17 11:59pm	Online	Journal 1b (option)	7.5	___
--reminder to start tracking for Ethic Challenge #1 sometime this weekend--				
Jan 21 Class	Class	Ethics Challenge #1	3	___
Jan 30 11:59pm	Online	Ethics Challenge #2	3	___
Jan 31 11:59pm	Online	Exegesis	10	___
Feb 6 11:59pm	Online	Ethics Challenge #3	3	___
Feb 7 11:59pm	Online	Argument	10	___
Feb 7 11:59pm	Online	Journal 1c (option)	7.5	___
--reminder to start tracking for Ethics Challenge #4 on Feb 13 th ---				
Feb 14 11:59pm	Online	Journal 1d (option)	7.5	___
Feb 20 11:59pm	Online	Ethics Challenge #4	3	___
Feb 21 11:59pm	Online	Conclusion	5	___
--SPRING BREAK--				
March 5 11:59pm	Online	Midterm Grade Assign	2	___
March 6 11:59pm	Online	Journal 2a (option)	7.5	___
March 20 11:59pm	Online	Journal 2b (option)	7.5	___*
March 26 Class	Online/Class	Ethics Challenge #5	3	___
April 3 11:59pm	Online	Writing Feedback	2	___
April 3 11:59pm	Online	Journal 2c (option)	7.5	___*
April 10 11:59pm	Online	Journal 2d (option)	7.5	___*
April 10 11:59pm	Online	Ethics Challenge #6	3	___
April 14 Class	Online/Class	Paper Draft	5	___
FINALS WEEK	Class	Final Essay	10	___
<u>No Due Dates</u>				
Participation	Class	First half participation	5	___
Participation	Class	Second half participation	5	___
Memos	Class	First half memos	4	___
Memos	Class	Second half memos	4	___
<u>Extra Credit</u>				
Tutors	Tutor office	Up to	7	___
Phone Credit	Class	Up to	3	___
Total				___/100