

## Morality and Politics

**Philosophy 110 (CH1)/ Winter 2010/ Thursdays 10:00-12:50/CH D234**

Instructor: **Anastasia Anderson**

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**Office hours:**

Tuesdays: 11:30- 12:00 Abby (Room D3085)

Wednesdays: 1:15-2:15 Abby (Room D3085)

Thursdays: 1:15-2:15 Chwk (Room A102M)

Fridays: 1:15- 2:15 Abby (Room D3085)

*Feel free to drop by my office during office hours. If you can't make it to my office during the above office hours, please contact me for an appointment.*

### COURSE OUTLINE

In this course you will be asked to think, talk, and write about how to determine what is morally right and what is morally wrong. Most of us have little trouble making moral judgments, but the focus of this course will be the reasons that support these moral judgments. You will study a variety of ethical theories and issues in order to examine the problem of how to act given that we live and interact with other human beings.

**Required Textbooks:**

1) The Elements of Moral Philosophy (Fifth Edition), James Rachels and Stuart Rachels. McGraw Hill, 2007)

2) Course Pack for Phil 110

The internet is an excellent resource for Philosophy students. I highly recommend the following websites.

For information on how to write a philosophy paper see:  
<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>

For an ethics site that has relevant articles, videos, and discussion boards see:  
<http://ethics.sandiego.edu/>

For a good encyclopaedia of Philosophy try:  
<http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html>

**Grade distribution:**

Essay #1: 20%

Essay #2: 25%

Midterm exam: 20%

Final exam: 30%

Participation: 5%

## Grading Scale:

90% - 100% = A+; 86%-89% = A; 80% - 85% = A-; 77% -79% = B+; 74% - 76% = B; 70% - 73% = B-; 67% - 69% = C+; 64% - 66% = C; 60% - 63% = C-; 50% -59% = P

**Late Policy:** Late assignments will not be accepted unless I have granted you an extension **before** the due date. **ALL** assignments are due **IN CLASS** on the assigned date. Assignments left at faculty reception or emailed will not be accepted unless you have made special arrangements with me.

## UCFV's Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is considered a serious breach of student conduct. Students should be aware that UCFV has policies regarding academic dishonesty, including plagiarism and cheating. The policy defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism occurs when a student presents work or data as original when part, or whole, was written or composed by someone other than the student.

Plagiarism occurs when paragraphs, phrases, sentences, or ideas within the work are taken from another source without referencing or citing the author.

When an instructor has evidence of plagiarism or cheating by a student, the instructor is entitled to assign a score of zero with the first incident, and to issue a written notice that any further incident will result in the student being required to withdraw from the course. With any further incidents of plagiarism or cheating, the student may be required to withdraw formally from the course.

## Schedule of readings

*(Because each class progresses at its own rate, I reserve the right to change the course schedule to fit the needs of the class.)*

Jan 14	Introduction: Morals and reasons
Jan 21	Cultural Relativism and Subjectivism Reading: Ch.1, 2, and 3
Jan 28	Divine Command Theory Reading: Ch. 4
Feb 4	Psychological and Ethical Egoism Reading: Ch. 5 Course pack: Hobbes
Feb 11	Utilitarianism Reading: Ch.6 Course pack: "Utilitarianism" by J.S. Mill <b>First essay due</b>

- Feb 18            Reading Week: No Classes
- Feb 25            Utilitarianism  
Reading: Ch.7  
Course pack: "Against Utilitarianism" by B. Williams and "The Ones who Walk away from Omelas" by Le Guin.
- Mar 4             **Midterm Exam**
- Mar 11            Kantian Deontology  
Reading: Ch.8 and 9  
Course pack: "Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals" by Immanuel Kant  
Reading: Course pack: "Maria von Herbert" by Rae Langston
- Mar 18            Virtue Ethics  
Reading: Ch. 12  
Course pack: Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics
- Mar 25            Social Contract  
Reading: Ch. 10
- April 1            Economic Justice  
Reading: Course pack selections by Rawls and Nozick  
**Second Essay due**
- April 8            Feminism and the Ethics of Care  
Reading: Ch.11  
Course pack: Article by Virginia Held
- April 15           Applying Ethics  
Reading: Course pack chapter on Abortion