

PHILOSOPHY 110
Moral and Political Philosophy
Section AB 2 — Fall, 2006

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Peter B. Raabe
CLASSROOM: A 354
TIME: Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.
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COURSE OUTLINE

OBJECTIVES: This course will help you to understand some of the various moral decision-making strategies that are available when trying to decide what is the right thing to do, or at least the best among various options. We will also consider ethics on a larger scale in regard to the morality involved in issues such as social policy-making, the punishment of criminals, and the political agendas behind both covert interference in the affairs of foreign countries and open warfare. Classes will consist of short lectures, group discussions, group activities, and discussion forums.

TEXT: *Moral Philosophy: Theories and Issues* (3rd ed.) Emmett Barcalow. Wadsworth, 2003. (required)

EVALUATION: There will be two short essay assignments, a midterm, and a final exam.

Distribution of marks:

Essay 1 (max. 4 pages double spaced)	25%
Midterm examination	20%
Essay 2 (max. 6 pages double spaced)	25%
Final examination	30%

Essays: You may use any citation style you wish as long as you keep it consistent throughout your entire essay. Quoted passages must be properly cited to avoid plagiarism. Please **do not** put any sort of plastic cover on your essay. A title page is acceptable. Always put your student number on anything you hand in.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Assignments must be handed in at the beginning of class. Late assignments will be given an automatic 0%.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

- 1) Wednesday
Sept 6 Greetings and introduction

- 2)
Sept 13 Chap. 1 Morality and Moral Reasoning

- 3)
Sept 20 Chap. 2 Morality and Religion &
 Chap. 7 Virtue and Vice

- 4)
Sept 27 Chap. 3 Nihilism, Relativism, and Subjectivism &
 Chap. 4 Psychological Egoism and Moral Egoism

- 5)
Oct 4 Chap. 5 Utilitarianism **(Essay 1 due)**

- 6)
Oct 11 Chap. 6 Kantian Moral Theory

- 7)
Oct 18 **MIDTERM EXAM**

- 8)
Oct 25 Chap. 8 Human Rights

- 9)
Nov 1 Chap. 9 Feminism

- 10)
Nov 8 Chap. 10 Morality and Sex

- 11)
Nov 15 Chap. 11 Life and Death Issues **(Essay 2 due)**

- 12)
Nov 22 Chap. 12 & 14 Poverty

- 13)
Nov 29 Chap. 15 War and Peace (and review for exam)

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY “PHILOSOPHY”?

Philosophy involves examining the reasons we have for the values we hold as good, and the beliefs we hold as true, so that we can free ourselves from blindly following tradition, obeying the dictates of some authority figure, or simply acting on our emotions.

Personal philosophy: my philosophy; my approach to life; my “Weltanschauung;” what leads me to act the way I do; what I believe, not just spiritual.

Being philosophical: critical and creative thinking and discussion; good reasoning about an issue; a thoughtful and thorough exploration; a learned skill.

History of philosophy: the study of the origin and evolution of ideas; what great thinkers have said on various important topics.

Academic philosophy: structured courses studying philosophers and their theories and ideas; systematic examination of various, mostly abstract, issues.

Applied philosophy: discussion and research into problems arising in specific areas such as medicine, business, the environment, etc.

Philosophical counselling: A philosopher helps a non-philosopher resolve real-life issues and problems by examining conflicting values, problematic assumptions, dubious beliefs, unjustified biases, things learned as a child, etc.

Epicurus (341 B.C.–271 B.C.): “Empty is the argument of the philosopher which does not relieve any human suffering; for just as there is no benefit in medicine if it does not drive out bodily diseases, so there is no benefit in philosophy if it does not drive out diseases of the soul.”