

University of Montana
ScholarWorks at University of Montana

Syllabi

Course Syllabi

Spring 2-1-2003

PHIL 300E.01: Systematic Ethics

Irene Appelbaum

University of Montana - Missoula, irene.appelbaum@umontana.edu

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

Recommended Citation

Appelbaum, Irene, "PHIL 300E.01: Systematic Ethics" (2003). *Syllabi*. 9634.
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/9634>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Course Syllabi at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

PHILOSOPHY 300

SYSTEMATIC ETHICS

SPRING 2003

Administrative Information

Professor: Irene Appelbaum
Office: LA 145; Phone: x-4837
E-mail: appel@selway.umt.edu

Class: M, W 12:40-2:00, LA 146
Office Hrs: T 1:30- 3:00 & by appt.

Course Description and Objectives

This course is an upper-level introduction to the three major traditions in general normative ethics: consequentialism, deontology, and virtue ethics. Through a close reading of major representative texts in each tradition, students are expected to come to an understanding of the characteristic features, problems, and relative merits of each. Questions to be addressed include: what characteristic features make an action right; what kinds of things have value; how are good things related to what one ought to do; what rights must an ethical theory recognize; are rights basic or derivative; should moral theories take particular acts or general rules as primary.

This course is also an upper-division writing course. As such students will be expected to write papers throughout the term (see specific requirements below). Papers will be critically evaluated both in terms of philosophical content and writing style. Particular attention will be paid to learning to write clear and concise prose, organizing papers in terms of argument structure, and developing the ability to explain concepts and points in the appropriate amount of detail.

Requirements

Readings: The readings are short but difficult. Students are expected to read each assignment at least twice before class and twice after class. *Always bring the text to class.*

Tests: There will be one test consisting of true/false, multiple choice, and short-answer questions. The test will be given on **Monday, March 3**. There is no final exam for this course.

Short Papers: Students are expected to write five short papers (2 pages each) on assigned topics dealing with the current readings. Paper topics will be given out 8 times during the semester and are due in class on the following Monday. (See below for paper due dates.) It is up to the student to choose which 5 of the 8 papers to write. Students may also write more than five papers, in which case the final grade will take into account the best 5 papers. *Papers are due in class on the due date and absolutely no late papers will be accepted. You may not turn in a paper on a day you miss class – e.g., if you skip class to finish the paper it will not be accepted.*

5-7-Page Papers: Students are expected to write two 5-7-page papers. Topics for these papers will be suggested by the instructor but, with the instructor's approval, students may write on a topic of their own choosing or expand a previously written 2-page paper. The first paper will be due approximately mid-semester. The second paper is due on **Monday, May 12 by 4 p.m.** Final papers should be left in the instructor's mailbox in LA101.

Grades for the course will be calculated as follows:

Test: 20%; Short papers: 40% (8% each); 5-7-Page Papers: 40% (20% each).

Texts

- Aristotle. (384-322 B.C.) *Nicomachean Ethics*. Trans. D. Chase, NY: Dover 1998.
- Bentham, Jeremy (1748-1832). From *An Introduction to the Principles and of Morals and Legislation* (1789). Darien, CT: Hafner Publishing, 1970, pp. 1-32. [xerox]
- Kant, Immanuel (1724-1804). *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals* (1785). James W. Ellington, Trans. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1993.
- Mill, John Stuart (1806-1873). *Utilitarianism* (1861). George Sher, ed. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1979.
- Rawls, John. (1921-2002). Two Concepts of Rules (1955). *Philosophical Review*, 1955, LXIV, 1, 369, pp. 3-32. [xerox]
- Ross, W.D. (1877-1940) *What Makes Right Acts Right?* (1930). From *The Right and the Good*. London: Oxford University Press, 1930, pp. 16-47. [xerox]
- Williams, Bernard. (1929-) *Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1985.

Reading Assignments

		Introduction	Mon * 3/17	Kant: Preface, pp. 1-5.
Mon	1/27	No reading	Wed 3/19	Kant: Sec. 1, pp. 7-12.
		I. Consequentialism	Mon 3/24	Spring Break – no class
Wed	1/29	Bentham: Ch. 1, pp. 1-7.	Wed 3/26	Spring Break – no class
Mon	2/3	Bentham: Ch. 2, 3, pp. 8-28.	Mon 3/31	Kant: Sec. 1, pp.12-17.
Wed	2/5	Bentham: Ch. 4, pp. 29-32.	Wed 4/2	Kant: Sec. 2, pp. 19-32.
Mon *	2/10	Mill: Ch. 1, pp. 1-5.	Mon * 4/7	Kant: Sec. 2, pp. 32-48.
Wed	2/12	Mill: Ch. 2, pp. 6-25.		III. Virtue Ethics
Mon	2/17	Presidents' Day – No class	Wed 4/9	Aristotle: Bk 1, pp. 1-19.
Wed	2/19	Mill: Ch. 3, pp. 26-33.	Mon * 4/14	Aristotle: Bk 2, pp. 2—33.
Mon *	2/24	Mill: Ch. 4, pp. 34-40.	Wed 4/16	Aristotle: Bk 3, pp. 34-55.
Wed	2/26	Mill: Ch. 5, pp. 41-63.	Mon * 4/21	Aristotle: Bk 6, 7, pp. 98-137.
Mon	3/3	TEST	Wed 4/23	Aristotle: Bk. 10, pp. 179-199.
Wed	3/5	Rawls: Sec.1, 2, pp. 3-18.	Mon * 4/28	Williams: Ch 1, pp. 1-21.
Mon *	3/10	Rawls: Sec. 3, 4, pp. 18-32.	Wed 4/30	Williams: Ch 8, pp. 132-155.
		II. Deontology	Mon 5/5	Williams: Ch 9. pp. 156-173
Wed	3/12	Ross, pp. 16-47.	Wed 5/7	Williams: Ch 10, pp. 174-202.

* = due dates for short papers.