

COURSE OUTLINE

<u>PHI 204</u>	<u>Ethics</u>		<u>3</u>	
Course Number	Course Title		Credits	
<u>3/week</u>	<u>0/week</u>	<u>0/week</u>	<u>0/week</u>	<u>15 weeks</u>
Class or Lecture Hours	Laboratory Work Hours Experience	Laboratory, Shop, Studio or Clinic Hours	Work Experience Hours	Semester Length
<u>Not Applicable</u>			<u>Not Applicable</u>	
Performance on an Examination/Demonstration			Telecourse	

Required Materials:

Text: Victor Frankl, Man's Search For Meaning, Washington Square Press
 Plato, The Republic, trans. by G.M.A. Grube, Hackett Pub. Co.
 Aristotle, Ethics, trans. by J.A.K. Thomson, Penguin Books
 Kant, Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals, trans. by L.W. Beck,
 Macmillan
 John Stuart Mill, Utilitarianism, Macmillan
 Nietzsche, Thus Spoke Zarathustra, trans. by W. Kaufmann,
 Penguin Books

Recommended:

Walter Kaurmann, Nietzsche: Philosopher, Psychologist, Antichrist,
 Princeton U. Press

Catalog Description:

An introduction to ethical concepts and theories, and the search for norms governing conduct. Good vs. evil, right vs. wrong, justice, and tolerance examined. Theories include hedonism, egoism, utilitarianism, and intuitionism. Readings in Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Mill, Nietzsche, and contemporary existentialism.

Latest Review: Fall 1999

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Course Coordinator: Ken Rothman

I. Method of Evaluation

There will be three one-hour examinations scheduled during the semester. Exams will be composed of essays.

Grade determination varies according to the organization of each course during a given year (See Section III) when, on occasion, class enrollment is small, weekly reports is scheduled. Each student presents one report.

The assignment of grades generally reflects the following breakdown:

Hour Exams - 100%

When oral reports are required, the breakdown consists of:

Hour Exams - 70%
Reports - 30%

II. Media and Materials Used in the Course:

1. Transparencies: Outlines of lecture.
2. Handouts: Important articles related to readings and the theme of the semester.
3. Films: Three lectures by Mortimer Adler: (1) Socrates; (2) Aristotle; and (3) The Stoics - Epictetus and Marcus Aurelius

III. The Organization of the Course:

- A. Students are shown the relationship between ethical theory and moral choices and how philosophy attempt to resolve moral dilemmas by appealing to ethical theory. The ethical theories of some of the most important Western philosophers are examined.
- B. Only complete original works are examined. Certain selected topics become the focus for critical analysis:

In Plato: Theory of knowledge, metaphysics, theory of education, social & political philosophy.

In Aristotle: his break with Plato, theory of happiness, the virtues and theory of education.

The Stoics & Epicureans: basic metaphysical assumptions on the nature of man, general ethical theory and theories of right vs. wrong, good vs. evil.

Kant: how pure reason differs from practical reason, duty, the categorical imperative, the relationship to the Stoics.

Mill: theory of pleasure and relation to the Epicureans and Bentham, Consequentialism, act and rule utilitarianism

Nietzsche: Nietzsche's critique of Western thought, values, language, society and the state, his view of the ubermensch and a critical commentary and evaluation of Thus Spoke Zarathustra.

Frankl: his work opens the course posing ultimate moral questions. The original title: From Death Camp to Existentialism

B. Weekly Class Schedule by Topic

1. What is Ethics? Theories of Value and Obligation
2. Understanding Contemporary Issues in Morals
3. Frankl, Man's Search For Meaning
- 4 & 5. Plato's Republic
- 6 & 7. Aristotle's Ethics
- 7 & 8. The Stoics and Epicureans
- 9 & 10. Kant's Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals
11. Mill's Utilitarianism
- 12 & 13. Nietzsche's Thus Spoke Zarathustra
- 14 & 15. Contemporary Moral Issues Re-examined

IV. General Objectives:

- (1) The student will be able to describe a variety of ethical theories
- (2) The student will become familiar with the assumptions that underly the possible solutions of the major moral problems studied.
- (3) The student will study and analyze the solutions to moral problems offered by many of the great moral philosophers of western civilization.
- (4) The student will be able to criticize the ethical theories that were offered by some of the great moral philosophers.
- (5) The student will begin to recognize the sociological, psychological, economic, legal and religious ramifications of moral codes.

V. Specific Objectives:

The student will be expected to:

- (1) Describe the two main branches of ethics: normative ethics and meta-ethics.
- (2) Discuss how judgments of moral value differ from judgments of moral obligation.
- (3) Describe the characteristics of the major theories of obligation: teleological and deontological theories.
- (4) Describe and analyze the teleological theories of:
 - (a) Ethical Egoism (which includes):
 - (1) Hedonistic Egoism
 - (2) Non-Hedonistic Egoism
 - (b) Utilitarianism (which includes):
 - (1) Hedonistic Utilitarianism
 - (2) Non-Hedonistic Utilitarianism
- (5) Distinguish between Ethical Egoism and Psychological Egoism.
- (6) Describe and analyze the deontological theories of: act-deontological and rule-deontological theories.
- (7) Discuss and analyze the various theories of the good (moral value) that philosophers have formulated since Plato.
- (8) Discuss how the problem of Free Will and Determination relates to moral responsibility, and point out the sociological, psychological and cultural ramifications for the ascription of responsibility.

(9) Describe and analyze the moral philosophies of:

- (a) Plato
- (b) Aristotle
- (c) Epicurus
- (d) Zeno
- (e) Hobbes
- (f) Kant
- (g) Mill
- (h) Nietzsche

VI. Method of Instruction:

1. Lecture Method is used more extensively at the beginning of the semester, but students are free to ask questions at any time.
2. Class discussions are an integral part of the course.
3. When class size is small, students present their own talk at least once a week followed by group analysis.
4. Overhead projector utilized for most classes in this course.
5. Films are used in conjunction with selected topics.