



PHIL 104-09 (9261)

Introduction to Ethics

Monday, 7:00-9:50pm, Beckman Hall 204

Instructor: Kyle Banick

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Office Hours: Monday 5:50-6:50pm

Location: Starbucks in Beckman

Course Description: Students examine some of the most urgent contemporary moral problems, based on the insights of major thinkers in the history of philosophical thinking about morality. Practical topics may include abortion, the death penalty, world hunger, and the environment.

Texts:

Cahn and Markie, *Ethics* ISBN 978-0-19-020980-3

Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*. Cambridge. 978-1107401068

Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*. Translated by Walter Kaufmann. 978-0679724629

Other articles and selections will be made available online.

Learning Outcomes

Philosophy-Specific Outcomes:

PLO 1: Writing. Ability to state and support a thesis, apply knowledge of critical reasoning, accurately interpret philosophic sources, and clearly communicate a balanced account in writing.

PLO 2: Critical Reasoning. Ability to construct and analyze complex arguments, and distinguish good reasoning from bad.

PLO 4: Ethics. Ability to reason logically, effectively, and respectfully about ethical matters.

General Education Outcomes:

7SI: Social inquiry. Employs theories of how people frame and analyze social and/or historical phenomena.

7VI: Value inquiry. Articulates how values and ethics inform human understanding, structures, and behavior.

Course Requirements

Reading:

Each student will be responsible for (1) choosing and reading their Primary Article in preparation for their presentation and final paper; (2) reading all of the assigned readings from the Schedule on Blackboard.

Presentation:

Each student will be paired with another student to present on the topic of their selected Primary Article. **See the handout “Presentations Instructions” for specific requirements.**

Final Paper:

The Final Paper will be written cumulatively through the completion of the weekly writing assignments (see Writing below). Each student will write on the topic of their Primary Article. The Final Paper will be due online in Finals Week and constitutes the student’s take-home Final Exam. **See the handout “Final Paper and Weekly Writing Instructions” for specific requirements.**

Midterm Exam:

An in-class, short-answer midterm exam will be given on ethical theory. Students will need Blue Books for this midterm.

Writing:

The writing assignments for the Final Paper will be due online *approximately* every other week for a completion grade. **See the handout “Final Paper and Weekly Writing Instructions” for Schedule of due dates and specific requirements.**

Peer Review and Discussion Participation:

Students are expected to participate in class and group discussions. For each of the of the writing assignments, we will have a randomized peer-review session. Each student will receive blind peer feedback on their writing for the prior week’s Weekly Writing assignment. In turn, each student will be expected to read and give feedback on other students’ essays.

Grade Distribution:

Participation	10%
Weekly Writing	10%
Presentation	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Paper	35%

Letter Grade Distribution:

≥ 94.00	A	74.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 93.99	A-	70.00 - 73.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
84.00 - 86.99	B	64.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 83.99	B-	60.00 - 63.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	≤ 59.99	F

Course Policies:

• General

- *Always come prepared to class with your copy of that week's reading assignment.*
- Always keep your fellow peers in mind. Never indulge behavior that distracts yourself or others from the class.
- If you must leave class early, please try to tell me before the start of class.

• Late Policy

- Writing Assignments: You will be deducted 50% credit for the first day of lateness, and 25% for each day thereafter.
- Final Paper: No late Final Papers will be accepted.
- Presentations: Must be given on the assigned date unless there are extreme extenuating circumstances.

• Peer Review

- Each student is expected to participate to the fullest extent in each peer review session. That means:
 - * Always being prepared with a **printed copy** of your Final Paper draft for that week.
 - Prepare your printed copy for blind review: Do not put your name on it, but instead put your student ID number.
 - * Putting in your best effort to give helpful, constructive feedback on the papers that you peer review for others.
- Your participation in Peer Review is part of your Participation grade.

• Attendance and Absences

- Attendance records will not be taken, but missing class regularly will negatively affect your Participation grade since you will not be able to participate in peer review and discussions.
- Students are responsible for all missed work, regardless of the reason for absence. It is also the absentee's responsibility to get all missing notes or materials.

• Grading

- Grading for Participation is a letter grade based on instructor assessment.

- Grading for the Weekly Writing assignment is a completion grade. Hence, if you turn it in on time, you get full points.
- Grading for the Presentation will be a letter grade based on instructor’s assessment.
- Grading for the Final Paper will be a letter grade based on instructor’s assessment.
- There is no extra credit.
- Once final grades are turned in there will be no changes made.

- **Office Hours**

- Office hours will be held in the Starbucks at Beckman Hall on Mondays 5:50-6:50PM.
- Walk-ins are more than welcome. However, if at all possible, please e-mail ahead of time and tell me what you’d like to discuss, so that I can be best prepared to help you.

Chapman University’s Academic Integrity Policy: Chapman University is a community of scholars that emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work and academic dishonesty of any kind will be subject to sanction by the instructor/administrator and referral to the University Academic Integrity Committee, which may impose additional sanctions including expulsion. Please see the full description of Chapman University’s policy on Academic Integrity at www.chapman.edu/academics/academicintegrity/index.aspx.

Chapman University’s Students with Disabilities Policy:

In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to contact the Disability Services Office. If you will need to utilize your approved accommodations in this class, please follow the proper notification procedure for informing your professor(s). This notification process must occur more than a week before any accommodation can be utilized. Please contact Disability Services at (714) 5164520 or visit <https://www.chapman.edu/students/health-and-safety/disability-services/> if you have questions regarding this procedure or for information or to make an appointment to discuss and/or request potential accommodations based on documentation of your disability. Once formal approval of your need for an accommodation has been granted, you are encouraged to talk with your professor(s) about your accommodation options. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

Chapman University’s Equity and Diversity Policy:

Chapman University is committed to ensuring equality and valuing diversity. Students and professors are reminded to show respect at all times as outlined in Chapmans Harassment and Discrimination Policy. Please see the full description of this policy at <http://www.chapman.edu/faculty-staff/human-resources/eoo.aspx>. Any violations of this policy should be discussed with the professor, the dean of students and/or otherwise reported in accordance with this policy.