

**PHIL 1213: Introduction to Ethics
Summer 2018**

Instructor: Seth Robertson
Instructor Email: sethrobertson@ou.edu

Time: MTWThF 10:30 AM – 12:40 PM
Location: Dale Hall Tower Rm. 104

Course Page:
<https://canvas.ou.edu/courses/126346>

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to historically and currently important discussions in ethics and moral philosophy and to help students develop their abilities to engage in ethical discussion and deliberation.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will improve at identifying, re-formulating, and evaluating moral arguments in their daily lives
2. Students will understand major ethical theories and how they can be applied
3. Students will explore a variety of areas of historical and contemporary moral philosophy

Course Requirements / Grading

1. **Ethics Portfolio (50%).** After each class period, students will be given a small assignment on the course Canvas page designed to help integrate information from class with their own experience. Many of these assignments will be tailored to the student's choice of their own personal preferred moral theory:
 - a. Utilitarianism
 - b. Deontology
 - c. Care Ethics
 - d. Virtue Ethics
2. **Midterm / Final (20% each).** There will be a short midterm and final exam. These will consist of multiple choice questions and a short essay question.
3. **Participation (10%).** At the beginning of each class period (before and after break) students will be given a short in-class activity. The participation grade will be determined by the number of these activities completed.

Required Texts

There is no required textbook for this course. All readings will be posted on the course page.

Late/Missed Work Policies

Exams may be rescheduled if the student provides an acceptable excuse, but must be taken as soon as possible. To receive full compensation, portfolio assignments must be completed before class begins. In-class activities cannot be made-up, but every student is allowed to miss 2 without penalty.

E-mail & Electronic Devices

Laptops are not permitted for use in class. Exceptions will be made only where there is some documented need for the device.

Honor Policy

Students are expected to do their own work. If you violate standards of academic integrity, I will seek to impose the severest penalty the university permits. If you are unclear about what constitutes cheating, plagiarism, or improper collaboration, please consult the OU website at <http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity/>

Religious Holidays

It is the policy of the University to excuse student absences that result from religious observances and to reschedule any exams that were missed owing to such observances. If you do encounter such a problem, please consult with me as soon as possible.

Reasonable Accommodation Policy

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent them from fully demonstrating their abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so that we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation.

Syllabus Policy

This syllabus is subject to change. The most updated version of this syllabus will be posted on the course page

Course Schedule

Below is the course schedule. Reading assignments are expected to be completed before class..

Date	Reading (Do before class)
July 9	
July 10	Schafer-Landau "The Kantian Perspective" Grimke - <i>Letter 12</i>
July 11	Mill - <i>Utilitarianism</i> Chapter 2 Harris - "The Survival Lottery"
July 12	Anscombe - "Modern Moral Philosophy" Battaly - <i>Virtue</i> Ch 2 "What Are the Virtues?"
July 13	Noddings - <i>Caring</i> Introduction and Ch. 1 Li - The Confucian Concept of Jen and the Feminist Ethics of Care
July 16	Tiberius - <i>Moral Psychology</i> Ch. 1 & 2 Haidt - "The Emotional Dog and its Rational Tail"
July 17	Alfano - Emotion Tiberius - "Virtue"

July 18	Midgley - "Trying Out One's New Sword" Alfano - "Disagreement"
July 19	Gensler - "Cultural Relativism" The Bhagavad Gita Ch 1 / Thucydides - <i>The Melian Dialogue</i> /
July 20	MIDTERM
July 23	Plato - <i>Euthyphro</i> Plato - <i>The Republic Ch. 1</i>
July 24	<i>Mengzi</i> - excerpts <i>Xunzi</i> - excerpts
July 25	Priest - Buddhist Ethics, A Perspective Purcell - "Aztec Moral Philosophy"
July 26	Cudd and Jones "Sexism" Adichie - "We Should All Be Feminists"
July 27	Kelly and Roedder - "Racial Cognition and the Ethics of Implicit Bias" Coates - "The Case for Reparations"
July 30	Lukianoff and Haidt - "The Coddling of the American Mind" Manne - "Why I Use Trigger Warnings"
Jul 31	Norcross - "Puppies, Pigs, and People" Flanagan - "The Dark Power of Fraternities"
Aug 1	Forcehimes - "Download this Essay: A Defense of Stealing E-books" Karjiker - "A Response to Forcehime"
Aug 2	FINAL