

Acknowledgement: UBC's Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the *xwməθkwəy̓əm* (Musqueam) people. The land it is situated on has always been a place of learning for the Musqueam people, who for millennia have passed on their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.

Philosophy 102: Introduction to Philosophy II
Winter Term 2 2021

Instructor: Brooks Sommerville
Lecture Times: MWF 12:00-1:00pm IBLC 182
Office Hours: W 11:00am-12:00pm or by appointment
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Course Description:

This course will introduce you to some of the major issues, theories, and debates in moral philosophy. It is divided into three parts. Part 1 will focus on some basic conceptual puzzles concerning the self. Are human beings basically selfish? Are they motivated only by pleasure? Can we rationally evaluate ways of life that are radically unlike our own? Why should one care about living a moral life in the first place? These are some of the questions we will explore. Part 2 will examine three major moral theories: Aristotle's eudaemonist virtue ethics; Immanuel Kant's deontological ethics; and John Stuart Mill's utilitarian moral theory. When we morally evaluate actions, should we look primarily to the agent's intentions, or to the action's consequences? Or are there other considerations beyond these? These are some of the questions we will consider. Part 2 will conclude with a discussion of the role of the emotions in moral reasoning. Finally, Part 3 will focus on moral issues related to death and mortality, starting with global famine and abortion. We will then consider the (surprisingly difficult!) question of whether death is a misfortune for the person who dies. What are our obligations to relieve great suffering around the world? Is there a meaningful moral distinction to be drawn between *allowing* someone to die, on the one hand, and *killing* them, on the other? Is it rational to fear one's own death? These are some of the issues we will explore.

This course aims to provide you with the skills to (i) apply philosophical theories to a wide range of moral issues; (ii) formulate and defend competing positions on these issues; and (iii) evaluate the broader debate. Beyond this, it hopes to make you a better reader and writer of philosophy in general.

Synchronous Instruction: Please note that students will be expected to participate in one hour of synchronous instruction per week. All remaining elements of instruction will be asynchronous, except for office hours.

Texts:

Kant, Immanuel. *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals: With A Supposed Right to Lie Because of Philanthropic Concerns*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1993.

Mill, John Stuart. *Utilitarianism*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2002.

All other required texts (marked with * in the reading schedule) will be available on Canvas.

Course Requirements:

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| 1. Homework Assignment (1-2 pages): | 10% |
| 2. Essay 1 (4-6 pages): | 20% |
| 3. Essay 2 (5-7 pages): | 25% |
| 4. Quizzes (x5): | 15% |
| 5. Final Exam: | 30% |

Additional Information About the Homework Assignment, Essays, and Final Exam:

Essays:

Essays must be written in 12 pt. font and double-spaced, with one inch margins and numbered pages. Make sure that your name and student number appear at the top of the first page. Title pages are not necessary.

Your introductory paragraph *must* include a clear thesis statement. A thesis statement has two main components: i) A clear statement of the position you will take in the paper; and ii) a brief, clear outline of the case you will make in support of that position.

You will receive instructions for each Essay at least **two weeks** before the deadline.

Homework Assignments:

You must submit a homework assignment worth 10% of your final grade. You will receive instructions well before the deadline. A thesis statement will not be necessary. Your homework assignment should not exceed two pages, single-spaced, in 12 pt. font.

Late Essays and Homework Assignments will be penalized at the rate of **one increment** of a grade per day late (i.e. an A becomes an A-), weekends included.

Quizzes: Students must complete all quizzes for the course, worth a combined total of 15% toward your final grade. All quizzes will be accessible through Canvas.

Final Exam: The final exam will consist of long-answer questions for which lectures and in-class activities should prepare you. The final exam is worth 30% of your final grade.

Course Policies:

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Do not make travel plans that interfere with your attendance. If you miss class, you are responsible for securing notes from a classmate and mastering the material.

Course Work: Failure to complete any major course work (homework assignment; essays 1-2; final exam) will result in a grade of F.

In-Term Concession Requests: If you miss marked coursework (homework assignment, essays 1-2) and are an Arts student, review the Faculty of Arts' academic concession page and then complete Arts Academic Advising's online academic concession form, so that an advisor can evaluate your concession case. If you are a student in a different Faculty, please consult your Faculty's webpage on academic concession, and then contact the instructor where appropriate.

Electronic Devices: Cell phones must be turned off in class.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments.

Please consult UBC's Learning Commons website: <http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/>

Individual Learning Needs: Students seeking accommodation because of disabilities are asked to contact the instructor as soon as possible. They should also contact the UBC Centre for Accessibility:

<https://students.ubc.ca/about-student-services/centre-for-accessibility>

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious and cultural observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available here: (<https://senate.ubc.ca/policiesresources-support-student-success>)

Reading Schedule:

Week 1:	Introduction, Primer on Arguments
	<i>Part 1: The Self</i>
Week 2:	*L. A. Paul, 'Becoming A Vampire' *Robert Nozick, 'The Experience Machine'
Week 3:	*Plato, <i>Republic</i> Book II (pp. 65-78)
Week 4:	*James Rachels, 'Egoism and Moral Skepticism' (pp. 804-810)
	<i>Part 2: Moral Theory</i>
Weeks 5-6:	*Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> Book I (pp. 124-134)
Week 7:	Immanuel Kant, <i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> (pp. 320-359)
Week 8:	John Stuart Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> (pp. 369-403)
Week 9:	*Amia Srinivasan, 'The Aptness of Anger'
	<i>Part 3: Well-Being & Death</i>
Week 10:	*Peter Singer, 'Famine, Affluence, and Morality' (pp. 847-854)
Week 11:	*Judith Jarvis Thomson, 'A Defense of Abortion' (pp. 815-825)
Week 12:	*Epicurus, <i>Letter to Menoeceus</i> (pp. 179-181) *Lucretius, <i>On the Nature of Things</i> (selection)
Week 13:	Review