UBC’s Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the x̱w̱m̱aθkw̱ay̱m (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 in their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title, Time and Location</th>
<th>Course Code Number</th>
<th>Credit Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Ethics</td>
<td>PHIL 230 001</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon Wed Fri 14:00-15:00 Web Based Course</td>
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<tr>
<th>Course Instructor</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
<th>Office Location</th>
<th>Office Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Willow Verkerk</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wverkerk@mail.ubc.ca">wverkerk@mail.ubc.ca</a></td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>By appointment</td>
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course surveys some of the main roots and thinkers of the Western ethical tradition, focusing on virtue ethics, deontology, and consequentialism. Texts include Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, Kant's *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, and Mill's *Utilitarianism*. A selection of contemporary readings will also be covered to illustrate more recent developments of these theories. Topics include the places of reason, emotion, culture, happiness, and care in ethics, friendship, and whether ethics is subjective or objective.

This is a lecture style course with class discussion. There are no prerequisites.

**LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

Students are expected to read the materials before class and come prepared to take part in online class discussion. Class time on Mondays is reserved for students to complete the readings, listen to podcasts, and respond to online discussion questions. Each Wednesday and Friday, there will be real time lectures on Collaborate Ultra with discussion encouraged.

The schedule includes all of the readings which can be found on LOCR, online, or under Modules on the Canvas course page.

**ASSESSMENTS OF LEARNING**

- Take Home Exam 1 (500 words) 20% due October 7
- Take Home Exam 2 (500 words) 20% due November 4
- Final Essay (2000 words) 50% due December 6.
- Participation 10%: based on attendance and participation in class discussion on Wednesdays and Fridays and on activity in the Discussion forum on Canvas.

All assignments are submitted on Canvas.

**SCHEDULE: MON, WED, FRI 14:00-15:00**
September 9: Introducing the Three Traditions

September 11: Moral Relativism
READ: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy entry on Moral Relativism
https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/moral-relativism/

September 14-18: Moral Relativism and Absolutism
MON: Listen to the following podcasts:
Paul Boghossian on Moral Relativism
AND
Simon Blackburn on Moral Relativism
AND
READ: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy entry on Moral Relativism
https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/moral-relativism/
WED and FRI: Lectures and discussion on moral relativism and absolutism

September 21-25: Utilitarianism and Consequentialism
MON: Listen to the following podcasts:
BBC In Our Time: Utilitarianism
https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b05xhwqf
AND
Roger Crisp on Utilitarianism:
AND
READ: Stanford Encyclopedia on the History of Utilitarianism, s. 2 The Classical Approach (2.1 Bentham and 2.2 Mill)
https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/utilitarianism-history/
WED and FRI: Lectures and discussion on Utilitarianism: Bentham and Mill

September 28-October 2: Mill on Utilitarianism
MON: READ: John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*, selections from sections I-V
WED and FRI: Lectures and discussion on Mill
Take Home Exam 1 posted Friday October 2

*Take Home Exam 1 due October 7*

October 5-9: Utilitarianism and Arguments for Vegetarianism
MON: READ: Mill, *Utilitarianism*, selections from sections I-V
AND
**WED and FRI:** Lectures and discussion on Mill and Singer

**October 12-15: Kant and Deontological Ethics**
**MON:** Listen to the following podcast:
BBC In Our Time: Kant’s Categorical Imperative
https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b0952zl3
Prepare for WED and FRI lectures
**WED and FRI:** Lectures and discussion on s. 1 of the GMM

**October 19-23: Kant and the Metaphysics of Morals**
**MON:** Prepare for WED and FRI lectures
**READ:** Second section of GMM.
**WED and FRI:** Lecture and discussion on s. II of GMM

**October 26-30: Kant and Personhood in Black Radical Thought**
**MON:** Prepare for WED and FRI lectures
**WED and FRI:** Lectures and discussion on Kant and Mills
Take Home Exam 2 posted October 30

*Take Home Exam 2 due November 4*

**November 2-6: Aristotle’s Ethics**
**MON:** Prepare for WED and FRI lectures
Listen to the following podcast on Aristotle:
Optional further listening:
Terrance Irwin
http://philosophybites.libsyn.com/terence_irwin_on_aristotle_s_ethics
Peter Adamson http://historyofphilosophy.net/aristotle-ethics
**READ:** Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, trans. Terence Irwin, 2nd ed., Hackett, 1999 (hereafter NE), Books I and II.
Further reading: Stanford Encyclopedia on Aristotle’s Ethics
https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aristotle-ethics/
**WED and FRI:** Lecture and discussion on Aristotle Books I and II
*Final Essay Questions posted November 6*

**November 9-13: Aristotle on Virtue and Vice**
**MON:** Prepare for WED and FRI lectures
**Intro to Ethics PHIL 230**

**Syllabus**

**READ:** NE Book III, sections 5-7, 9-12 and Book IV, sections 1, 3, 5-9.

**WED and FRI:** Lectures and discussion on Books III and IV

**November 16-20: Aristotle on Friendship, Pleasure and Happiness**

**MON:** Prepare for WED and FRI Lectures

**READ:** NE Book VIII, Book IX and Book X sections 1-8.

**WED and FRI:** Lectures and discussion on Books VII, IX and X

**November 23-27: The Ethics of Care**

**MON:** Prepare for WED and FRI Lectures

**READ:** Steven Steyl, “The Virtue of Care,” *Hypatia* 34. 3 (Summer 2019).


**WED and FRI:** Lecture and discussion on virtue ethics and the ethics of care

**November 30-December 2: Which Kind of Ethical Theory Do You Support?**

**MON:** Prepare for WED lecture by reflecting on the course and thinking about which kind of ethical theory you support.

**WED:** Concluding discussion

*December 6 Final Essay due*

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

During the course, students will learn concepts central to ethical theory. They will practice talking and thinking critically about the arguments and ideas. The take home exams provide the opportunity to demonstrate understanding of the key concepts studied to date. The final paper is an exercise in critical thinking to explore and deepen understanding of one or more of the thinkers or traditions studied during the course. By the end of the semester, students will be familiar with consequentialist and deontological ethical theories, as well as virtue ethics, in both historical and contemporary formulations.

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND SUPPORT**

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 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 on the UBC Senate website.
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. A link about Academic misconduct is below
http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959

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