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 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 Mon Wed 19:00-22:00 Web Based Course</td>
<td>PHIL 230A-901</td>
<td>3 credits</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:willow.verkerk@ub.ca">willow.verkerk@ub.ca</a></td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>By appointment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF
To be announced

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. Online lectures on Zoom are scheduled on Mon/Wed from 19:00-20:45. The remaining time from 20:45-22:00 will include asynchronous activities.

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 July 19
- Take Home Exam 2 (750 words) 20% due August 2
- Final Essay (2000-2500 words) 50% due August 18
- Participation 10%: based on participation in class discussion and on activity in the Discussion forum on Canvas. Students who are unable to attend lectures can gain these marks through weekly activity in the Discussions forum on Canvas.
All assignments are submitted on Canvas.

SCHEDULE: MON, WED 19:00-20:45

**Monday July 5: Introducing the Three Traditions**

**Wednesday July 7: Moral Relativism and Objectivism**
**READ:** Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy entry on Moral Relativism
[https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/moral-relativism/](https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/moral-relativism/)
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/](https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/moral-relativism/)

**Mon, July 12: Utilitarianism and Consequentialism: Bentham and Mill**
Listen to the following podcasts:
BBC In Our Time: Utilitarianism
[https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b05xhwqf](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)

**Wed, July 14: Mill on Utilitarianism**
**READ:** John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*, pp. B-51 (first three chapters)
*Take Home Exam 1 posted July 14*

**Mon, July 19: Utilitarianism and Arguments for Vegetarianism**
**READ:** Peter Singer, “Utilitarianism and Vegetarianism,” *Philosophy & Public Affairs* (Summer, 1980), pp. 325-337.

*Take Home Exam 1 due July 19*

**Wed, July 21: Kant and Deontological Ethics**
Listen to the following podcast:
BBC In Our Time: Kant’s Categorical Imperative
https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b0952zl3

**Mon, July 26: Kant and the Metaphysics of Morals**
READ: First and second sections of GMM.

**Wed, July 28: Kant and Personhood in Black Radical Thought**
*Take Home Exam 2 posted July 28*

**Mon, August 2: Aristotle’s Ethics**
Listen to the following podcast on Aristotle:
Terrance Irwin
http://philosophybites.libsyn.com/terence_irwin_on_aristotle_s_ethics
AND
Optional further listening:
Peter Adamson http://historyofphilosophy.net/aristotle-ethics
Further reading: Stanford Encyclopedia on Aristotle’s Ethics
https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aristotle-ethics/

* Take Home Exam 2 due August 2*

**Wed, August 4: : Aristotle on Virtue and Vice**
READ: NE Book III, sections 5-7, 9-12 and Book IV, sections 1, 3, 5-9.
*Final Essay Topics and Essay Writing Guidelines posted August 4*

**Mon, August 9: Aristotle on Friendship, Pleasure and Happiness**
READ: NE Book VIII, Book IX and Book X sections 1-8.

**August 11: The Ethics of Care**
READ: Steven Steyl, “The Virtue of Care,” *Hypatia* 34. 3 (Summer 2019).

*August 18 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.

International Students:
During this pandemic, the shift to online learning has greatly altered teaching and studying at UBC, including changes to health and safety considerations. Keep in mind that some UBC courses might cover topics that are censored or considered illegal by non-Canadian governments. This may include, but is not limited to, human rights, representative government, defamation, obscenity, gender or sexuality, and historical or current geopolitical controversies. If you are a student living abroad, you will be subject to the laws of your local jurisdiction, and your local authorities might limit your access to course material or take punitive action against you. UBC is strongly committed to academic freedom, but has no control over foreign authorities (please visit http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,33,86,0 for an articulation of the values of the University conveyed in the Senate Statement on Academic Freedom). Thus, we recognize that students will have legitimate reason to exercise caution in studying certain subjects. If you have concerns regarding your personal situation, consider postponing taking a course with manifest risks, until you are back on campus or reach out to your academic advisor to find substitute courses. For further information and support, please visit: http://academic.ubc.ca/support-resources/freedom-expression

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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