UBC’s Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməʔkwəy̓əm (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 Monday and Wednesday 1-4 pm BUCH A 203</td>
<td>PHIL 230A 002</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>BUCH E 158</td>
<td>By appointment, Monday, Tuesday 4-5 pm in person or on Zoom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF
TBA

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 are also included to illustrate recent developments in ethical theory. Topics include the places of reason, emotion, culture, happiness, and care in ethics, friendship, and whether morality is relative 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 discussion. The schedule includes all of the readings which can be found in the Library Online Course Reserves (LOCR).

ASSESSMENTS OF LEARNING
- Take Home Exam 1 (500-600 words) 20% due July 18
- Take Home Exam 2 (750 words) 20% due August 1
- Final Essay (2000 words) 50% due August 17
- Participation 10%: based on participation in class discussion and/or on activity in the Discussions forum on Canvas.

All assignments are submitted on Canvas.

1 University of British Columbia
SCHEDULE: MON, WED 1-4 PM

Monday July 4: Introducing the Three Traditions

Wednesday July 6: Moral Relativism and Objectivism
READ: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy entry on 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

Mon, July 11: Utilitarianism and Consequentialism: Bentham and Mill
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, July 13: Mill on Utilitarianism
READ: John Stuart Mill, Utilitarianism, pp. B-51 (first three chapters)
Take Home Exam 1 posted July 13

Mon, July 18: 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 18*

Wed, July 20: 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 25: Kant and the Metaphysics of Morals  
**READ:** First and second sections of GMM.

Wed, July 27: Kant and Personhood in Black Radical Thought  
*Take Home Exam 2 posted July 27*

Mon, August 1: Aristotle’s Ethics  
Listen to the following podcast on Aristotle:  
Terrance Irwin  
[http://philosophybites.libsyn.com/terence_irwin_on_aristotle_s_ethics](http://philosophybites.libsyn.com/terence_irwin_on_aristotle_s_ethics)  
AND  
Julia Annas  
Optional further listening:  
Peter Adamson  
[http://historyofphilosophy.net/aristotle-ethics](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/](https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aristotle-ethics/)

*Take Home Exam 2 due August 1*

Wed, August 3: : 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 3*

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

Wed, August 10: The Ethics of Care  

*August 17 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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4 University of British Columbia