

PHIL3100 ETHICS
Semester: Fall 2019
Online

Instructor: Dr. Andrew K. Whitehead
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Electronic Communications: The University provides all KSU students with an “official” email account with the address “students.kennesaw.edu.” As a result of federal laws protecting educational information and other data, **this is the sole email account you should use to communicate with your instructor or other University officials.**

Catalog Course Description:

The course is a study of the major approaches to ethical thought and the applicability of these approaches to selected issues in the humanities, sciences, and professional areas including business, medicine and law.

Instructor’s Course Description:

This course introduces students to several major schools of thought in the history ethical theory. Amongst the questions we may raise will be: What is meant by a good life? What makes an action subject to a particular moral valuation? What are the different ethical modes of engaging with events? How does one event lend itself to contradictory moral evaluations? What role do emotions and desires play in value judgments? The approach we will take is historical with respect to primary texts, but contemporary with respect to the issues and questions discussed. We will also take a comparative approach insofar as students will be encouraged to identify and explore parallels between different positions and practices (East and West) within a broadly speaking ethical framework.

Course Objectives:

1. Develop an understanding of ethical questions, the foundations of ethical theory, and the impact of ethical pronouncements.
2. Question claims made by ethicists and learn to test them against available evidence with a view to advancing general and transferable critical skills.
3. Learn to appreciate the latent philosophy of ethical valuations.
4. Achieve competency in the technical terminology of ethics and moral theory.
5. Compare the tools and concerns of ethics with those of other philosophical and non-philosophical approaches and practices.
6. Reach advanced levels of comprehension, argumentation, presentation and writing skills.

Course Format:

Philosophy 3100 is an online course. Course content will combine formal online lectures and informal online discussions. Students are encouraged to participate actively in debate and to raise related issues relevant to their lives and experience. Students are expected to prepare all readings in advance of the lectures and assignments they are meant to address. Some of the assigned primary texts are difficult, but will be openly discussed and explained in online lectures and complemented with optional secondary readings.

Required Reading:

Nicomachean Ethics 2nd Edition
978-0872204645
Aristotle, Terence Irwin (trans.)
Hackett Publishing Co.

Confucian Role Ethics: A Vocabulary
978-0824835767
Roger T. Ames
University of Hawai’i Press

The Moral Fool: A Case for Amoralism
978-0231145091

Hans-Georg Moeller
Columbia University Press

Ethics: The Essential Writings

978-0812977783

Gordon Marino (ed.)

Modern Library Additional required readings will be made available online as electronic documents.

Course Assessment:

- Tests (best 3 of 4) 60%
- Discussion Boards (best 4 of 5) 40%

*****N.B. Late assignments will automatically receive a mark of zero, unless official medical documentation is provided.*****

Description of Assignments:

Tests: You will be required to respond to an essay prompt. There will be four tests throughout the semester. The top three test scores will be used for the final assessment and calculation of 'Tests' grade.

Discussion Posts: You will be graded on your participation and interaction with course materials and other students. In order to receive full marks, you must take part in online discussions for each module as indicated. There will be five discussion board assignments throughout the semester. The top four discussion board assignments will be used for the final assessment and calculation of 'Discussion Boards' grade.

For the Discussion Posts you will be graded on your participation and interaction with course materials and other students. You are required to write 500 words (min. 450, max. 550), providing philosophical reflection on the topic provided. You are required to discuss and cite **at least** the primary reading selected under discussion. The discussion board posts are graded according to the grading scale in line with the **following rubric:**

1. Student has successfully **identified and explained** something significant about the topic
2. Student has proofread the document for grammar and spelling
3. Student has cited at least one primary text
4. Student has provided a substantial reflection on the topic, using: a secondary text (journal or book) or a piece from social media (newspaper, television show, movie), making sure to highlight how this relates to, contradicts, or supports the significant point or argument identified and explained

All students are required to respond to *at least* one other post per assignment in order to receive full marks.

Grading Scale:

Students are evaluated on the following scale:

A — 100 – 90

B — 89 – 80

C — 79 – 70

D — 69 – 60

F — <60

Philosophy Resources:

Resources for writing a philosophy paper:

How to Write a Philosophical Essay (available on D2L)

KSU Philosophy LibGuide:

(<http://libguides.kennesaw.edu/content.php?pid=531460&sid=4372684>)

The KSU Writing Center

A free service offered to all KSU students. Experienced writing assistants work with you throughout the writing process (on concerns such as topic development, revision, research, documentation, grammar, and mechanics) although assistants cannot edit or proofread your paper for you. Appointments are strongly encouraged. For more information or to make an appointment, visit <http://kennesaw.edu/writingcenter/>, or stop by Room 242 in the English Building.

Your Professors and Instructors**Philosophy Student Association**

<http://www.philosophystudentassociation.com>

Academic Policies

Students are expected to comply with KSU's academic policies, listed here: <https://registrar.kennesaw.edu/student-records/academic-policies.php>.

Academic Integrity:

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section 5. C of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the university's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to university materials, misrepresentation/falsification of university records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement. See [alsohttps://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct](https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct).

Students suspected of violating the KSU statement of Academic Honesty will meet with the instructor to discuss the violation **AND** will be reported to the Department of Student Conduct according to the process outlined at the following link: <https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/scai-misconduct-procedures>

To avoid plagiarizing, including unintentionally plagiarizing, please visit:

<http://plagiarism.org/>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

<http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html>

ADA Compliance:

Students with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who require "reasonable accommodation(s)" to complete the course may request those from Department of Student Success Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University's Department of Student Success Services rather than engaging in this discussion with individual faculty members or academic departments. If, after reviewing the course syllabus, a student anticipates or should have anticipated a need for accommodation, he or she must submit documentation requesting an accommodation and permitting time for a determination prior to submitting assignments or taking course quizzes or exams. Students may not request retroactive accommodation for needs that were or should have been foreseeable. Students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. For more information please visit their website, sss.kennesaw.edu/sds.

Contact information is as follows:

SDS Email: sds@kennesaw.edu

Primary number for Kennesaw campus: [470-578-2666](tel:470-578-2666)

Primary number for Marietta campus: [678-915-7244](tel:678-915-7244)

Accessibility Statements:

Kaltura: <https://corp.kaltura.com/products/core-platform/video-accessibility>

D2L: <https://www.d2l.com/accessibility/>

Adobe: <https://www.adobe.com/accessibility/products/acrobat.html>

One Stop Shop: Office of Distance Education: <http://ode.hss.kennesaw.edu/elearning/onestopshop.html>

Student Resources: <http://learnonline.kennesaw.edu/student-resources/>

Topics and Readings (subject to change at the discretion of instructor):

Module 1— Introduction: Ethos (ἦθος) and *Mōrēs*: The Good Life

Assignment(s) Due: Discussion Board: Introduce Yourself (due August 24)

Module 2— Normativism: Establishing Codes

Reading(s): Required: The Instructions of Shuruppak (D2L, online)

Assignment(s) Due: Discussion Board 1: Ethics: A Starting Point (due August 31)

Module 3—Aristotle’s Nichomachean Ethics

Reading(s): Required: *Nicomachean Ethics (NE)*, Books I, II, III, pp.1 – 48

Module 4— Aristotle’s Nichomachean Ethics (cont’d)

Reading(s): Required: *NE*, Books VIII, IX, pp.119 – 152

Assignment(s) Due: Discussion Board 2: Happiness and Virtue (due September 14)

Module 5—Test 1: Aristotle

Assignment(s) Due: Test 1 (due September 21)

Module 6— Hume

Reading(s): Required: *Ethics: The Essential Writings (Ethics)*, pp.149 – 187

Module 7— Kant

Reading(s): Required: *Ethics*, pp.188 – 224

Module 8—Rawls

Reading(s): Required: *Ethics*, pp.378 – 395

Assignment(s) Due: Discussion Board 3: Hume, Kant, or Rawls? (due October 12)

Module 9—Test 2: Hume, Kant, and Rawls

Assignment(s) Due: Test 2 (due October 19)

Module 10—Confucian Role Ethics

Reading(s): Required: *Confucian Role Ethics (CRE)*, pp.87 – 125

Module 11—Confucian Role Ethics (cont’d)

Reading(s): Required: *CRE*, pp.159-210

Assignment(s) Due: Discussion Board 4: Role Ethics (due November 2)

Module 12—Test 3: Confucian Role Ethics

Assignment(s) Due: Test 3 (due November 9)

Module 13—Amoralism

Reading(s): Required: *The Moral Fool: A Case for Amoralism (Fool)*, pp.16 – 103

Module 14—Amoralism

Reading(s): Required: *The Moral Fool: A Case for Amoralism (Fool)*, pp.16 – 103

Assignment(s) Due: Discussion Board 5: Fools Not Tools (due November 23)

Module 15—Test 4: Amoralism

Assignment(s) Due: Test 4 (due December 7)