

Introduction to Ethics

80-130, Summer II 2002

Course Information

Time: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 12:00 – 1:20

Room: Baker Hall, 255A

Instructor

Name: David Gray

Office: Baker Hall, 161A

Email: degray@andrew.edu

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 11:00 – 12:00, or by appointment

Course Objectives

As an introduction to ethics, this course is designed to be both historical and thematic. Key representatives of the history of ethics will be discussed in detail and major ethical theories will be analyzed in relation to concrete situations.

The course will also involve the student in the creative process of developing the skills necessary to engage in reflective moral reasoning. This process will culminate in the final sections of the course that use interactive multimedia modules to simulate real world scenarios involving difficult moral choices. Participation in an 'ethics committee' and active engagement in listening to other people's stories will provide students with the opportunity of developing personal reflections about these processes and the ways in which they can be used to expand our understanding of hard choices and moral dilemmas.

Special multimedia projects from CMU's own Center for the Advancement of Applied Ethics are employed during the discussions of euthanasia and abortion.

Requirements

Reading Quizzes (15%)

Presentations (2 @ 15% each)

Take Home Exams (1 @ 15%, 2 @ 20% each)

Since we must cover a massive amount of material in a short period of time, class attendance is required. Students are allowed 2 absences, no questions asked. Each additional absence will result in 2 points being deducted from the student's final grade average.

Text

Minogue, Brendan. *Bioethics: An Ethics Committee Approach*. Boston, MA: Jones and Bartlett, 1996.

A course packet and handouts will comprise the bulk of the remaining reading material.

Course Outline

Part I, History of Ethics

- Preface: The Life of Socrates
- Section 1: Greek Moral Philosophy
- Section 2: Hellenistic and Roman Ethics
- Section 3: Early Christian Ethics
- Section 4: Modern Moral Philosophy
- Section 5: Recent Moral Philosophy

Part II, Concepts and Problems of Ethics

- Preface: Meta-ethics, Normative Ethics, and Applied Ethics
- Section 1: Ethical Relativism
- Section 2: Ethical Egoism
- Section 3: Utilitarian Theories
- Section 4: Deontological Theories
- Section 5: Contractarian Theories
- Section 6: Virtue Ethics
- Section 7: Liberal Rights and Communitarian Theories (*optional*)
- Section 8: Case-based Moral Reasoning
- Section 9: Moral Pluralism (*optional*)

Part III, Applied Ethics

- Preface: The Field of Applied Ethics
- Section 1: The Topic of Euthanasia
- Multimedia Module: A Right to Die?
- Section 2: The Topic of Abortion
- Multimedia Module: The Issue of Abortion in America
- Postscript: Conflict Resolution

A Note on Plagiarism

pla·gia·rism (plā'jĕ-rĭz'ĕm) *n* 1: a piece of writing that has been copied from someone else and is presented as being your own work. 2: the act of plagiarizing; taking someone's words or ideas as if they were your own.

Plagiarism is bad. Do not do it. Anyone caught doing it can fairly assume that they will not pass this course, as it is an affront to the very spirit of a course on ***ETHICS***.