

**Ethics (ETHC)**  
**JHU-CTY Course Syllabus**  
**Carlisle Session 1 2013**

**Instructor: Tyler Paytas**

**Teaching Assistant: Roy Blumenfeld**

**Required Items:** *Ethical Theory: An Anthology* 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Russ Shafer-Landau. Wiley-Blackwell. 2013

*The Fundamentals of Ethics* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Russ Shafer-Landau. Oxford University Press. 2011.

A notebook for completing writing assignments

**Course Description:**

Ethics is the study of how we ought to live. Since the ancient Greeks, philosophers have held ethics as one of the most important fields in philosophy because of its intimate ties with everyday life. During the first part of this course we will consider and critique different principles and theories which purport to explain what makes an action right or wrong, and what sort of character traits we ought to develop. In the second part of the course we will investigate the status of ethical theories and claims. We will attempt to discover whether there are objective truths about how we ought to live, or if ethics is ultimately a matter of subjective opinions and desires. In the final part of the course we will consider some practical ethical issues such as global poverty and animal welfare.

**Course Objectives:**

- This course will serve as an introduction to philosophy in general and to philosophical ethics in particular.
- You will learn to recognize arguments and to assess them critically.
- You will gain practice in employing the philosophical tools of critical analysis in your own thinking and writing.
- You will learn to conduct research in philosophy and to organize the findings of your research into written form.
- You will consider the positions of historical thinkers such as Plato, Mill, and Kant, as well as those of contemporary philosophers such as Derek Parfit and Peter Singer.
- You will gain understanding of specific topics in ethical theory such as consequentialism, deontology, and ethical non-naturalism

**Expectations:**

You will be expected to read and analyze material from the course texts and handouts. You will also be expected to attend and participate in class. The instructors will attempt to provide interesting and informative material for you to read, give helpful lectures, provide assignments and activities that challenge and stimulate interest, be available to answer any questions you may have, and provide fair and timely evaluations of your achievement.

**Assignments:**

There will be occasional quizzes throughout the session. There will be a term paper assignment which will require you to construct an argument for or against a particular ethical view covered during the session. You will give formal presentations of your paper followed by a question and answer session with the audience (classmates, instructors, and other CTY staff members). In addition to these individual assignments there will also be many group assignments including formal debates, skits, presentations, and art projects.

**Academic Integrity:**

We encourage you to discuss the material from this course with others. You must write the term paper on your own. Additionally, we expect students to be polite to each other and to the instructors. A polite person might say, "I respect you and your intellect such that if I disagree with you, I will attempt to show you that my beliefs are right until you are convinced, or I am convinced that I am wrong." The subject matter of this course is often controversial, and involves beliefs forged by emotional experiences and family background. We will never make fun, ridicule or berate people in this class for holding a particular belief, but we may question a position in order to better understand and, perhaps, come to appreciate it. Also, please refrain from disrupting class (Turn cell phones, watch alarms etc. OFF; do not chat with classmates).

<b>Day 1- Introduction Religion and Ethics</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Monday 6/24 Morning	Introductions Pre-Assessment Objectives and Expectations What is Ethics?	Ice-Breaker – “Link” Pre-Assessment Name Placards Review Syllabus Class Discussion: goals and rules Writing Exercise: Why study ethics? Lecture/Discussion: What is ethics? Reading: <i>FOE</i> Introduction Class Discussion
Afternoon	Religion and Ethics Euthyphro Dilemma	Lecture: Euthyphro Preview (intro ethics & Religion) Reading: <i>ETA</i> p. 218-219 Small group discussion Reading: <i>FOE</i> ch. 5 Assignment: ch. 5 discussion questions
Evening	Religion and Ethics Consequentialism	Lecture: Review Religion and Ethics/ Introduction to Moral Theories. Reading: <i>FOE</i> ch. 9

<b>Day 2 – Consequentialism</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Tuesday 6/25 Morning	Consequentialism Classic Utilitarianism	Quiz on Logic and DCT Reading: <i>FOE</i> ch. 9 Lecture: Intro to consequentialism and utilitarianism Class Discussion: How plausible is utilitarianism? Video: “Justice” Episode 1
Afternoon	Subjective and objective consequentialism	Lecture: subjective vs. objective Consequentialism Skits
Evening	Mill Objections to consequentialism	Reading: <i>FOE</i> ch. 10 Reading: <i>ETA</i> p. 417-421

<b>Day 3 – Consequentialism</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Wednesday 6/26 Morning	The demandingness objection	Lecture: Review utilitarianism Writing Exercise: Hedonism & “Experience Machine” Class discussion Lecture: The demandingness objection Small Group Discussion: How much can morality demand of us?
Afternoon	Injustice and Rule Consequentialism	Act Utilitarianism Case Studies Rule Consequentialism Game
Evening	Kant & Deontology	Lecture: Rule Consequentialism Reading: <i>FOE</i> : ch. 11 Assignment: ch. 11 discussion questions

<b>Day 4 – Kant &amp; Deontology</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Thursday 6/27 Morning	Introducing Kant The Good Will Autonomy	Assessment: Consequentialism Quiz Lecture: Introducing Kant & Deontology Video: “Justice” Episode 6 Part 1 Class Discussion
Afternoon	The Categorical Imperative	Lecture: Kantian Moral Worth Kant Art Projects
Evening	Kant continued	Reading: <i>FOE</i> ch. 12 Assignment: ch. 12 discussion questions (Extra Reading: <i>ETA</i> : 490-497)

<b>Day 5 – Kant &amp; Deontology</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Friday 6/28 Morning	Formula of Humanity Alienation objection	Writing Exercise: Cultivating Talents Discussion Lecture: Review Good Will and Autonomy: Introduce Formula of Humanity Video: “Justice” episode 6 Part 2 Reading: “The Duty of Humanity” Class Discussion
Afternoon	Moral Luck Moral Rationalism Moral Saints Divine Hiddenness	Class Discussion: Alienation Objection Reading for Presentations

<b>Day 6 – Presentations</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Sunday 6/30 Evening	Moral Luck Moral Rationalism Moral Saints Divine Hiddenness	Prepare Presentations Presentations Study for Quiz

<b>Day 7 – Debate &amp; Virtue Ethics</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Monday 7/1 Morning	Introducing Virtue Ethics	Lecture: Perfect and Imperfect Duties Case Studies Prepare for Quiz Kant Quiz Reading <i>FOE</i> : 252-261 Lecture: Introducing Virtue Ethics Reading <i>ETA</i> 617- 622
Afternoon	Aristotle Golden Mean	Reading: <i>ETA</i> 622-627 Lecture: Aristotle Activity: Golden Mean Skits
Evening	Objections to Virtue Ethics	Reading: <i>FOE</i> : 261-270 Assignment: Discussion Questions 4 and 5 Reading: <i>ETA</i> pp. 645-652 Assignment: 1 paragraph summary of central line of argument—raise one objection

<b>Day 8 – Virtue Ethics &amp; Contractarianism</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Tuesday 7/2 Morning	Objections to Virtue Ethics Hursthouse Annas	Lecture/Discussion: Objections to VE and Hursthouse Popcorn Reading: <i>ETA</i> 676-680 Silent Reading: <i>ETA</i> 680-684 Lecture: How to write a philosophy paper Discussion paper pre-writing
Afternoon	Review Virtue Ethics	Short Essay: Discussion paper on Annas or Hursthouse
Evening	Aristotle on the Good Life Introduce Contractarianism	Lecture on Review Virtue Ethics Study for Quiz Reading: <i>FOE</i> ch. 13

<b>Day 9 – Contractarianism</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Wednesday 7/3 Morning	Hobbes Rawls	Study for Quiz Assessment: Virtue Ethics Quiz Lecture: Hobbes and the social contract Class Discussion Veil of Ignorance activity Popcorn Reading: 581-584 Silent Reading: 585-591 Video: “Justice” Episode 7 part 2
Afternoon	Rawls	Lecture: Rawls Class discussion Video: “Justice” Episode 8 part 1 Reading: Nozick
Evening	Rawls vs. Nozick	Prepare for Rawls vs Nozick Debate

<b>Day 10 – Ethical Relativism</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Thursday 7/4 Morning	Debate	Prepare for Debate Debate Writing Exercise: Debate Reflections
Afternoon	Cultural Relativism Ethical Subjectivism	Writing Exercise: Is Ethics Relative? Pair/Share--Discussion Popcorn Reading: <i>FOE</i> ch.19 Discussion Lecture: Introducing Metaethics
Evening	Moral Nihilism Part 1 –Error Theory	Reading: <i>ETA</i> : 22-30 Assignment: 1 page summary

<b>Day 11 – Moral Nihilism &amp; Realism</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Friday 7/5 Morning	Error Theory Nihilism	Lecture/Discussion: Relativism and Subjectivism Popcorn Reading: <i>FOE</i> p.306-312 Lecture: Mackie & Joyce Popcorn Reading: <i>FOE</i> p. 312-317
Afternoon	Nihilism	Presentations: 10 Arguments against moral realism

<b>Day 12 – Realism</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Sunday 7/7 Evening	Internal and External Reasons	Lecture: Introduce Parfit Reading: Parfit on normativity and reasons

<b>Day 13 – Realism &amp; Term Papers</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Monday 7/8 Morning	Non-natural realism	Lecture: Metaphysical objections to realism Reading: Parfit on ontology and normativity Metaethics Art Projects
Afternoon	Term Paper	Study for quiz Assessment: Metaethics Quiz Lecture: How to write a philosophy paper Term Paper Pre-Writing
Evening	Term Paper	Term Paper Pre-writing

<b>Day 14 – Term Papers</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Tuesday 7/9 Morning	Term Paper	Computer Lab
Afternoon	Term Paper	Computer Lab
Evening	Paper Presentations	Paper Presentations

<b>Day 15 – Animals</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Wednesday 7/10 Morning	Animal Welfare	Writing Exercise: Do animals have rights? Class Discussion Reading: <i>ETA</i> 355-356; 359-371 Lecture: Animal Welfare
Afternoon	Animal Welfare	Prepare for Debate
Evening	Animal Welfare	Debate

<b>Day 16 – Global Poverty</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Thursday 7/11 Morning	Global Poverty	Reading: Singer Solution to World Poverty Class Discussion Reading: Pogge
Afternoon	Global Poverty Health Impact Fund	Lecture/Discussion: Pogge
Evening	Post Assessment	Review Post Assessment

<b>Day 17 – Conclusions</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Friday 7/12 Morning	Conclusions What Matters Most	Reading: Parfit p. 607-620; Class Discussion