

# Philosophy 214: Ethics

Spring 2012  
Wednesday 6:00-8:30  
Roemer Hall Room 209

Instructor: Tyler Paytas  
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Office Hours: After class or by appointment

## Course Description

This is a course in theoretical moral philosophy. The aim is to provide students with a general understanding of the development and status of ethics as a theoretical discipline and its relation to social and political philosophy. We will examine various historical theories purporting to explain what makes actions and policies morally obligatory, permissible, or wrong. We will address very abstract and difficult questions about the nature of morality: Where does the authority of morality derive from? Do moral considerations always outweigh self-interest? Is conventional morality a sham? The course readings will be original sources. Some of the readings will be quite difficult. Be prepared to read the assigned texts multiple times.

## Required Texts

- *Classics of Moral and Political Theory*, Fifth Edition. Edited by Michael L. Morgan. Hackett Publishing Company, 2011.
- Additional readings will be distributed in class or via e-mail.

## Evaluation

10% Participation  
30% Midterm Exam  
30% Term Paper  
30% Final Exam

*Participation* – Much class time will be spent discussing the assigned readings. For that reason, it is essential that each student come to class prepared with questions, comments, or objections. To ensure that this is the case, each student will submit a one page (typed, double spaced) summary of the assigned readings at the beginning of each class period. Participation grades will be determined by the quality of the weekly summaries, the quality and frequency of contributions to discussion, and regularity of attendance. Please do not be afraid to share your thoughts with the class—undeveloped ideas often lead to fruitful discussions.

## Lindenwood University Plagiarism Policy

Academic honesty is the foundation of any educational institution. It is the responsibility of each student, professor, and administrator at Lindenwood University to uphold the honor of the institution by acting honestly and truthfully in all situations.

To this goal, Lindenwood University has developed the following policy on plagiarism\*.

- 1) The name of any student who has been found to have plagiarized will be turned into the Office of the Dean of the respective division. The plagiarized paper, along with supporting documents, will be placed in a file and the name of the student will be placed on a list. This list is available only to the Deans.
- 2) The classroom professor will notify the student directly that Step 1 has occurred. Evidence to support a claim of plagiarism will be provided. The effect of the plagiarism on the student's grade will be determined by the professor and will be stated in the syllabus for that course.
- 3) In the event that the student plagiarizes a second time, the student will then meet with the Dean of that division and/or the Provost. After a second proven instance of plagiarism, the student will be placed on academic probation. The student will also fail the class.
- 4) If the student chooses to plagiarize a third time, the student may be expelled from the university.

\*Plagiarism is defined as "the presentation of someone else's ideas or words as your own. Whether deliberate or accidental, plagiarism is a serious offense" (Fowler and Aaron 680).

Each of the following is a type of plagiarism and must be avoided in all academic work:

- Copying directly from a source without quotations and source citation;
- Paraphrasing or summarizing another's idea without attribution;
- Changing a sentence's structure but copying words;
- Changing a sentence's words but copying its basic structure;
- Using audio, video or other media sources without acknowledgement;
- Submitting a paper written by another student and claiming it as your own;
- Using information obtained through interviewing an expert on the subject without attribution;
- Purchasing or downloading a paper from another source and claiming it as your own;
- Collaborating excessively on an essay with another person;
- Submitting an essay that was previously written for another class without the consent of both professors (Plagiarism Defined 1).

It is always better to ask for assistance and clarification than to purposefully or accidentally plagiarize. If you have questions about citing sources, start by asking your classroom professor. You can also find helpful information in your Comp II Handbook such as [The Little, Brown Handbook](#) which is currently used. You may also seek help at the Lindenwood University Writing Center, Butler Hall 212.

Additional information concerning the campus policy on academic honesty may be found in the Lindenwood University Student Handbook.

### Works Cited

Fowler, H. Ramsey, and Aaron, Jane E. [The Little, Brown Handbook](#). New York: Pearson Longman Press, 2004.

"Plagiarism Defined: Part 3." [Plagiarism Tutorial: Indiana State University Library](#). 15 June 2004. Indiana State University. 10 June 2005 <[panther.indstate.edu/tutorials/plagiarism/defined3.html](http://panther.indstate.edu/tutorials/plagiarism/defined3.html)>.

*Students with Disabilities* – If you have a disability or questions about a disability that requires reasonable accommodations for academic participation in a course, you need to contact Jared Conner, Student Support and Accessibility Coordinator, at 636-949-4510 or [jconner@lindenwood.edu](mailto:jconner@lindenwood.edu) and notify your professor during the first week of class so that accommodations can be made. Reasonable accommodations will be made to ensure that students with disabilities have a fair opportunity to perform at their potential. Students are responsible for providing the Accessibility Coordinator and instructor with a Campus Accessibility Faculty Notification Form specifying classroom accommodations. Your academic advisor can also help with this process.

*Late Papers* – Papers are due at the beginning of class on the assigned date. Papers not received then will be penalized 5% off their base grade immediately, and another 5% for every 24 hour period thereafter until they are received.

*Electronic Devices* – Cell phones, music players, and computers may not be used during class. Ringers should be turned off before entering, and texting is prohibited.

**Course Schedule** (Subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class and via e-mail.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
1/25	Introduction to Ethics	None
2/1	Bentham	e-mail
2/8	Mill	pp.1008-1009, 1069-1102
2/15	Kant	pp. 942-954
2/22	Kant	pp. 955-984
2/29	Plato/Review	pp. 31-45
3/7	Midterm	None
3/14	Aristotle	pp. 252-273
3/21	Aristotle	pp. 307-315, 349-360
4/4	Hobbes	pp. 617-659
4/11	Marx	pp. 1158-1160, 1183-1202
4/18 (Term Paper Due)	Rawls	e-mail

4/25	Nietzche	pp.1214-1215,1253-1290
5/2	Joyce/Review	e-mail
5/9	Final Exam	None