

Philosophy 101 Introduction to Philosophy: Morals and Society  
03  
TTH: 10:00 - 11:15 (64354)

INSTRUCTOR: Ron Loo  
OFFICE: Palanakila 144  
OFFICE HOURS: Mon: 8:45 - 9:45 a.m., 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Wed: 8:45 - 9:45 a.m., 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Thurs 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
(Other times by mutual agreement)  
TELEPHONE: 236-9144, rloo@hawaii.edu  
EFFECTIVE DATE: Spring 2012

Windward Community College Mission Statement  
Windward Community College is committed to excellence in the liberal arts and career development; we support and challenge individuals to develop skills, fulfill their potential, enrich their lives, and become contributing, culturally aware members of our community.

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:

This course will consist of an examination of social and individual values, rights, obligations and responsibilities.

ACTIVITIES REQUIRED AT OTHER THAN REGULARLY SCHEDULED CLASS TIMES:

Field Trip(s): Optional.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Recognize the major views that have defined the Western debate on ethical matters to include: virtue ethics, teleological theory, and deontological theory.
2. Use logical reasoning and ethical concepts to analyze contemporary ethical problems.
3. Defend a position on a fundamental problem in ethics.
4. Compare, contrast, and evaluate deontological, teleological, and virtue ethics in terms of their respective views of (a) human nature, (b) the nature of goodness, (c) the good life.

COURSE CONTENT:

Concepts or Topics

- **THE NATURE OF MORAL PHILOSOPHY**

Issues

Rationale for Studying Ethics

Definition of Ethics

Distinctions

Moral Responsibility and Blame

Moral Reasoning

Moral Analysis, Praxis, and  
Paradigm Shifts

Logical Fallacies

- **ETHICAL RELATIVISM**

Ethical Subjectivism

Jean-Jacques Rousseau: The  
Roots of Ethical Subjectivism  
in Romantic Sentimentalism

The Kitty Genovese Syndrome

Critique of Ethical Subjectivism

Cultural Relativism

Social Darwinian Ethics: The  
Concept of Moral Progress

Cultural Relativism and the Moral  
Community

Critique of Cultural Relativism

- **MORALITY AS UNIVERSAL**

Ethical Egoism

Psychological Egoism

Objectivist Ethics and  
Rational Egoism

Ethical Egoism and Laissez-Faire  
Capitalism

Ethical Egoism and the Moral Community

Critique of Ethical Egoism

Skills

1. Identify and assess assumptions supporting ethical, epistemological, metaphysical, and political theories.
2. Defend a position on a philosophical problem in ethics
3. Explain the major tenets of deontological, teleological, and virtue ethics.
4. Construct a well reasoned argument on a contemporary ethical problem.
5. Use logical reasoning, ethical concepts, philosophical concepts to analyze, compare, contrast, and evaluate deontological, teleological, and virtue ethics.

COURSE CONTENT:

Concepts or Topics

- **MORALITY AS UNIVERSAL**
  - Utilitarianism: The Greatest Happiness Principle
  - Mo Tzu
  - Jeremy Bentham
  - John Stuart Mill
  - Utilitarianism and the Moral Community
  - Euthanasia and the Principle of Utility
  - Critique of Utilitarianism
  
  - Deontology: The Ethics of Duty
  - Confucius: Duty and the Community
  - Immanuel Kant: The Categorical Imperative
  - The Good Will and Proper Self Esteem
  - W.D. Ross: Prima Facie Deontology
  - The Duty of Justice
  - Critique of Deontology
  
  - Rights Ethics: The Other Side of Deontology
  - The Emergence of Rights Ethics in Modern Society
  - Natural Rights Ethics - John Locke
  - The Marxist Critique of Natural Rights Ethics
  - Rights and Duties
  - Buddhism and Rights Ethics
  - Liberty (Negative) Rights and Welfare (Positive) Rights
  - Rights and the Moral Community
  - Critique of Rights Ethics

Skills

6. Recognize and apply ethical concepts and theories.
7. Recognize philosophical issues
8. Use articulate, and well reasoned writing to demonstrate grasp of course materials.

COURSE CONTENT:

Concepts or Topics

- **MORALITY AS UNIVERSAL**  
Virtue Ethics and the Good Life  
Virtue Ethics and Character  
Aristotle: Reason and Virtue  
Confucius and Aristotle: The  
    Doctrine of the Mean  
Nel Noddings and David Hume:  
    Sentiment and Virtue  
The Unity of Virtue  
Virtue and Moral Education  
Critique of Virtue Ethics
  
- **BIOETHICS**  
Issues  
History of Bioethics  
Doctor-Patient Relations  
Experimentation  
Death and Decisions Regarding  
    Life-Sustaining Treatment

COURSE TASKS:

1. Unit Exams: Complete three (3) in-class exams. Each exam will consist of matching questions, short answer questions, and essay questions (history of philosophy questions, analysis questions, evaluation questions, application questions, comparison/contrast questions). Questions for the exams will be drawn from unit study guides (based on reading assignments, lectures, texts, paperbacks, movies) that will be distributed two weeks prior to the exams. Make-up exams will only be given in cases of illness (with a doctor's note) or valid emergency. There is no comprehensive final exam for this course.
2. Case studies: Write your answers to discussion questions for two (2) case studies which will require you to apply concepts/theories to actual cases, defend a point of view regarding what is right and wrong, analyze the quality of the reasoning in the cases. Answers for this assignment need to be typewritten. (Handwritten work will not be accepted for credit. Late work will be penalized five (5) points per week for each week that the assignment is late.)
3. Group Presentation: Give an oral presentation, on a topic approved by the instructor, that will require the group to demonstrate its understanding of a philosophical issue/concern and its impact on society. A typewritten outline of the presentation must be submitted one (1) week prior to the presentation. Groups are limited to 4 members. Presentations must a) be approximately 15 minutes in length, b) be accompanied by a typewritten bibliography of 6 quality information sources (magazine articles, scholarly websites, government reports), c) be accompanied by a typewritten list of the names of group members and their respective contributions to the presentation, d) be accompanied by a typewritten outline of the presentation e) be accompanied by an Information Source Form for each reference used.
4. In-class Work: Participate regularly in a variety of in-class activities. These activities include: class discussion, group work, video worksheets, in-class exercises, quizzes, writing assignments, and other forms of class work. Since these are in-class activities, they cannot be made up if missed.

MODE OF INSTRUCTION:

In this course, students will learn the history of moral philosophy, rudiments of moral reasoning, and analytical and critical thinking skills.

Classes will combine lectures with discussions. Lectures will focus on ethical theories, ethical issues, philosophical methodology, moral principle, and on topical reading assignments. Discussions and brief writing assignments (in-class), on the other hand, will provide students with an opportunity to critically analyze and/or apply ethical concepts/theories, identify moral issues, and employ philosophical methodology.

Guest speakers and/or audio/visual materials will be incorporated when appropriate.

METHOD OF GRADING:

1. Criteria for evaluating course work:
  - a. Grasp of the problem/concept/topic.
  - b. Logic and persuasiveness of the presentation.
  - c. Perceptiveness in seeing and weighing various alternative interpretations.
  - d. Demonstration of critical analysis.
  - e. Clarity with which the topic/concept was discussed.

2. Weight of tasks:

Unit Exams	100 = (2 x 50)
Case Studies	100 = (2 x 50)
Group Presentation	100 = (1 x 100)
In-class Work	<u>100</u>
	400

METHOD OF GRADING:

3. Letter grades will be assigned based on the number of points accumulated for the course.  
  
A: 348 - 400  
  
B: 295 - 347  
  
C: 242 - 294  
  
D: 189 - 241  
  
F: 136 - 188  
  
W: Official withdrawal from the course. (This option must be initiated by the student.)

LEARNING RESOURCES AND MATERIALS:

1. Recommended texts:  
Albert, Denise, Peterfreund. Great Traditions In Ethics (6th ed.)  
Ehrenreich, B. Nickel and Dimed  
Hospers, J. Human Conduct
2. Required texts:  
Boss, J. Ethics For Life (5th ed.)  
Keyes, D. Flowers For Algernon  
Schlink, B. The Reader
3. Supplementary reprints will be assigned as appropriate.  
Recommended reading materials should be read for perspective.
4. Study guides (based on reading assignments, lectures, text, paperbacks, movies, handouts) for each unit will be disseminated in class 2 weeks prior to each exam. Unit exam questions will be drawn from these unit study guides.

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Office hours:  
to be announced in class.
2. Reading Assignments:  
Moderate to heavy. Reading assignments are considered "heavy" in that they require thoughtful reflection and critical analysis.
3. Class Attendance:  
The subject matter of this course is intellectually challenging and students who miss classes regularly rarely do well.
4. Class Preparation:  
Students are expected to prepare adequately for each class. This means that reading and/or writing assignments should be completed so that they can be discussed by the next class.
5. Inappropriate Behavior:  
You may lose up to five (5) points per class period for non-participation in activities or distracting rude behavior, which includes but is not limited to:
  - 1) leaving your cell phone ringer on
  - 2) answering your cell phone
  - 3) text messaging
  - 4) talking while a classmate or the instructor presents information
  - 5) making disparaging or inappropriate remarks.
6. How To Succeed In This Course:
  - a. Keep up with reading and writing assignments.
  - b. Attend class regularly and take "good notes".
  - c. Participate in class discussions.
7. Learning Assistance:  
Seek assistance with your learning problems as soon as they are encountered.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, HYPERLINK "mailto:lemke@hawaii.edu" [lemke@hawaii.edu](mailto:lemke@hawaii.edu), or you may stop by Hale 'Akoakoa 213 for more information. Revised May 10, 2007



Philosophy 101  
Overview

UNIT 1: The Nature of Moral Philosophy  
UNIT 2: Ethical Relativism  
UNIT 3: Morality As Universal:  
Ethical Egoism  
Ethics For Life  
Exam #1: Feb. 09 (TH)\_\_\_\_\_

UNIT 3: Morality As Universal:  
Utilitarianism: The Greatest Happiness Principle  
Deontology: The Ethics of Duty  
Rights Ethics: The Other Side of Deontology  
Virtue Ethics and the Good Life  
Ethics For Life  
The Reader  
Exam #2: Mar. 20 (T)\_\_\_\_\_

UNIT 4: Bioethics:  
History of Bioethics  
Doctor-Patient Relations  
Experimentation  
Death and Decisions Regarding  
Life Sustaining Treatment  
Flowers For Algernon  
Classic Cases In Medical Ethics:  
Accounts of Cases That  
Have Shaped Medical Ethics  
Exam #3: May 10 (TH) 9:30 - 11:20 a.m.

**\*LAST DAY** to submit course work for credit: May 01 (T), 11:30 a.m.