

Introduction to Ethics

XXX:XXX:XXX

John M. DePoe, Course Instructor

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Hours:

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Required Text: Steven M. Cahn and Peter Markie, eds., *Ethics: History, Theory and Contemporary Issues*. 7th ed. Oxford University Press, 2007.

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Grade Scale</u>												
Exam #1: 25%	F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Exam #2: 25%	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Exam #3: 25%													
Quizzes: 15%													
Participation: 10%													

Course Description

This course will highlight some of the most important texts in both classical and contemporary developments in ethics. Students will face some of the most fundamental questions about the nature of moral right and wrong such as whether the ends justify the means, whether ethical claims are objective or relative, how it is we know ethical truths, and the analysis of ethical statements. Students will read primary texts from Aristotle, Aquinas, Kant, Mill, Moore, and others.

Exams

Exams will be administered in class. Exams will test students over information given in the readings and lectures. Students will be given more information in class regarding what to expect from and how to prepare for these exams. Anyone who is unsure about the nature of an exam or the material covered in it is encouraged to meet with the instructor during **office hours** or to schedule an appointment with the instructor **before the exam**. The final exam is not comprehensive.

Quizzes

Reading is an essential part of learning philosophy. Periodic pop quizzes will be given during classes for the purposes of checking that reading assignments are done on time. Students are encouraged to take notes on the readings, and *students will be allowed to use their own handwritten notes on pop quizzes*. The two lowest quiz grades will automatically be dropped when calculating the final grade.

Participation/Attendance

Each day of class students will be given a grade for participating in the course. Since being absent entails not participating in class, absences will count as a zero for that day's participation. Those who attend class, stay awake, take notes, show engagement with the material, and participate in discussion (both in class and online) will receive proportionate credit for that day's participation. The participation grade will also consider participation with the online discussion board on this course's website. The three lowest daily participation grades will automatically be dropped when calculating the final grade.

Minimal Passing Requirement

In order to pass the course students must meet two basic requirements: (1) to take all of the exams; and (2) to attend two-thirds of classes. *Those who do not meet these conditions will fail the course regardless of their overall average.*

Tentative Schedule of Readings

Week 1

Aristotle, *Nichomachean Ethics*

Week 2

Aristotle, *Nichomachean Ethics*

Week 3

Aristotle, *Nichomachean Ethics*

Week 4

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Contra Gentiles*

Week 5

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Contra Gentiles*

EXAM #1

Week 6

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*

Week 7

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*

Week 8

Kant, *Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals*

Week 9

Kant, *Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals*

Week 10

Mill, *Utilitarianism*

Week 11

Mill, *Utilitarianism*

EXAM #2

Week 12

G. E. Moore, *Principia Ethica*

Week 13

H. A. Prichard, "Does Moral Philosophy Rest on a Mistake?"

W. D. Ross, *The Right and the Good*

Week 14

C. L. Stevenson, "The Emotive Meaning of Ethical Terms"

R. M. Hare, *Freedom and Reason*

Week 15

Kurt Baier, "The Point of View of Morality"

EXAM #3 – To be given at the time and place according to the final exam schedule