

Philosophy 104: Ethics

IVC Spring 2013

Instructor: **Edwards**

Office: 314 C

Phone: (760) 355-6285 E-mail: aaron.edwards@imperial.edu

Office Hours: M & W 8:00-8:30 AM; Tue & Thu 8:00-8:30 & 12:00-1:00.

Course Description and Introduction:

There are two main objectives for this course. The first is to introduce you to the kinds of issues addressed in the area of philosophy called Ethics and to encourage independent reflection on them. The second is to address specific questions and the answers given by historical and contemporary philosophers concerning the following questions and theories: What is Ethics? Does ethics require God? Is ethics relative or objective? Why should one be moral? What is the nature of ethical value? Utilitarianism, Kantian ethics/deontological systems, and Virtue ethics.

Required Texts: Lewis Vaughn. *Doing Ethics: Moral Reasoning and Contemporary Issues* (Second Edition), ISBN-10: **0393934284** | W. W. Norton & Company; (December 22, 2009)

Course Requirements:

Final grades will be determined by class participation, quizzes, a short paper, and four exams, including a final exam, as outlined below:

In-Class Exams: 30%	Final Exam: 25%	Paper: 20%	Participation: 15%	Quizzes: 10%
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Writing assignments will be due at the beginning of class. They will be graded by letters ranging from an A to an F.

There will be four exams throughout the semester, two smaller exams and a comprehensive final. Before each exam I will tell you what kinds of topics will be on the test so you can prepare accordingly. Scantrons are need, the form is 882-E.

In addition to the Paper and exams, there will be 4 **pop** quizzes, each is worth 2.5% of your final grade. There will also be a short paper (4-6 pages) assigned near the end of the semester. The specifics of the paper will be covered in class.

Finally, a significant component of your final grade will be based on your participation in class. To do well in the class, you should attend class meetings on a regular basis. Also, you can participate by raising interesting questions and comments in class.

Plagiarism:

We'll talk about plagiarism on the first day of class so that everyone will know what exactly it is. Plagiarism means attempting to give the reader the idea that words or ideas in an essay are your own when in fact they are someone else's. This is a serious academic offense that can get you thrown out of college. Don't take chances! If you have questions about what should be documented or cited, please ask me.

Attendance:

You may be absent from two classes with no consequences. If you miss more than two classes, then you must bring valid documentation (doctor's note, jury duty notice, receipt from mechanic etc.) to the next class meeting or you will be dropped from the course. **While you are in class you will be expected to turn cell phones off and not use them in any capacity.** If you are late to class you are free to come in and join the class but you will be marked absent.

Disability Statement:

Each student at Imperial Valley College has the same rights, and privileges as any other student; this includes students with disabilities. Students in this course who have documented disability should meet with a Disabled Student Services and Programs (DSP&S) Counselor as soon as possible as well as notify me in some way. The DSP&S office is located in the Health Sciences Building, room 2117. The telephone number is 355-6312.

Semester Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule of the course and may change if required. You will be expected to have read the assigned reading by the time you attend the relevant class.

Note: Reading listed on a certain day are **To Have Been Read** on that day.

Date	Assignment
Week 1	Course overview and what is Ethics?
Week 1	Moral Principles and Arguments
Week 2	Moral Relativism
Week 2	A Critique of Ethical Relativism and Subjectivism.
Week 3	Divine Command Theory
Week 4	Divine Command Theory Group Work
Week 4	Ethics Without God: Kai Nielsen
Week 5	Test one
Week 5	Utilitarianism
Week 6	John Stuart Mill: Utilitarianism.
Week 7	Rule vs. Act-Utilitarianism
Week 7	The Experience Machine. (Group Work)
Week 8	Immanuel Kant
Week 8	Kantianism Continued
Week 9	(Group Work)
Week 9	Test 2
Week 10	Human Rights John Locke.
Week 10	Human Rights continued
Week 11	off
Week 12	Spring Break
Week 13	Aristotle: The Ethics of Virtue
Week 13	Abortion: Warren and Marquis
Week 14	Abortion Thomson
Week 15	Animal Rights

Student Learning Outcome	Assessment Tool (e.g., exam, rubric, portfolio)	Institutional Outcome* (e.g., ISLO1, ISLO2)
Example: describe and critique major arguments in Metaethics, Normative Ethics and Applied Ethics.	Term Paper	ISLO1, ISLO2, ISLO4

Week 16	Environmental Ethics: Paper is Due
Week 16	Famine Relief
Week 17	Final Exam

***Institutional Student Learning Outcomes:** ISLO1 = communication skills; ISLO2 = critical thinking skills; ISLO3 = personal responsibility; ISLO4 = information literacy; ISLO5 = global awareness

