

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – Philosophy 104

Basic Course Information

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| Semester | Fall | Instructor Name | Aaron S. Edwards |
| Course Title & # | Introduction to Philosophy 104 | Email | aaron.edwards@imperial.edu |
| CRN: | 10524 | | |
| Room | 1603 | Office | 314 C |
| Class Dates | August 13th- December 5th | Office Hours | Mon. 10:45-11:15 AM Tue. 7:30-8:00 AM Wed. 4:00-6:00 PM Thu. 7:30-8:00 AM |
| | | Office Phone # | 760 355--6285 |
| Class Time: 11:20-12:45 AM | Units: 3 | | |

Course Description

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.

Student Learning Outcomes

ISLO1, ISLO2 will be met by this course.

Institutional Student Learning Outcomes: **ISLO1** = communication skills; **ISLO2** = critical thinking skills;

ISLO3 = personal responsibility; **ISLO4** = information literacy; **ISLO5** = global awareness

Course Objectives

Required language: Acquire critical thinking skills by comprehending philosophical texts and evaluating philosophical arguments. Be able to construct arguments of your own on various philosophical issues.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Doing Ethics: Moral Reasoning and Contemporary Issues (Third Edition) by Lewis Vaughn

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods
Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Course Requirements:

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

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|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| In-Class Exams: 30% | Final Exam: 25% | Paper: 20% | Participation: 15% | Quizzes: 10% |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|

Writing assignments will be due at the beginning of class. They will be graded by letters ranging from an A to an F.

The Grading scale is as follows:

- A 100% - 90%
- B 89% - 80%
- C 79% - 70%
- D 69% - 60%
- F 59% - 0%

There will be three 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 needed, 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.

Attendance
Classroom Etiquette

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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.**

Late Assignment Policy: Late assignments will be accepted only one day after the assignments is due. You will lose a whole letter grade on the assignment. Depending on the assignment you may lose two points or twenty percent depending on how much the assignment is worth. Quizzes, Tests and Group Discussion entries will not be accepted as late.

Academic Honesty

- Plagiarism is to take and present as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to correctly 'cite a source', you must ask for help.
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials, or assisting others in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.
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- Anyone caught cheating or will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General School Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment ;(c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment, (e) use of a commercial term paper service

Additional Help

The instructor can add the information pertinent to his or her class here. Some suggested language:

- Blackboard support center: <http://bbcrm.edusupportcenter.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8543>
- Learning Labs: There are several 'labs' on campus to assist you through the use of computers, tutors, or a combination. Please consult your college map for the Math Lab, Reading & Writing Lab, and Learning Services (library). Please speak to the instructor about labs unique to your specific program
- Library Services: There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the learning center, study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313 if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee. We now also have a fulltime mental health counselor. For information see <http://www.imperial.edu/students/student->

[health-center/](#). The IVC Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in Room 2109, telephone 760-355-6310.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online at http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to help students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials at <http://www.imperial.edu/courses-and-programs/divisions/arts-and-letters/library-department/info-lit-tutorials/>

Anticipated Class Schedule / Calendar

The instructor will provide a tentative, provisional overview of the reading, assignments, tests, or other activity for the duration of the course. The faculty may find a table format useful for this purpose.

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| 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 | Human Rights Gewirth |
| Week 10 | Human Rights John Locke. |
| Week 10 | Test 2 |
| Week 11 | Aristotle: The Ethics of Virtue |
| Week 11 | Abortion |
| Week 12 | Abortion |
| Week13 | Animal Rights |
| Week 14 | Animal Rights |
| Week 15 | Fall Break |
| Week 16 | Environmental Ethics |
| Week 17 | Final |
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