

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2025	Instructor Name:	Aaron Edwards
Course Title & #:	Philosophy 104	Email:	aaron.edwards@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10247 & 10249	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:		Office #:	201
Class Dates:	8/11/25 - 12/5/25	Office Hours:	Mon & Wed 10:00-11:00 AM Tue 1:00-2:00 pm Thu 1:00-2:00 pm Online
Class Days:	Online	Office Phone #:	(760) 355-6285
Class Times:		Emergency Contact:	
Units:	3	Class Format:	Asynchronistic

Course Description⁵

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.

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Describe the main moral theories within Philosophy. (ILO1, ILO2,ILO4)
2. Critique various philosophical arguments. (ILO1, ILO2,ILO4)
3. Locate and describe various errors in reasoning within Ethical arguments. (ILO1, ILO2)
4. Write their own arguments on various moral topics. (ILO1, ILO2)



Course Objectives

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

Critical Thinking is a course created to help students develop their skills in reasoning, analysis and the use of logical argument.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Doing Ethics: Moral Reasoning and Contemporary Issues (5th Edition) by Lewis Vaughn

ISBN-13: 978-0393265415

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

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: 20%

Paper: 20%

Homework and Participation 20%

Quizzes 10%

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives



A 100% - 90%

B 89% - 80%

C 79% - 70%

D 69% - 60%

F 59% - 0%

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 three exams throughout the semester, 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.

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

Finally, a significant component of your final grade will be based on your participation in class. To do well in the class, you should do all of the reading assignments and group work in order to obtain your class participation points.

Course Policies

Attendance

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See [General Catalog](#) for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

Classroom Etiquette

[Required Information: Describe your policies regarding classroom conduct. The below is suggested language and may be modified for your course.]

- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, unless otherwise directed by the instructor.
- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed by the instructor.
- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the [General Catalog](#).
- Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, only students enrolled in the class may attend; children are not allowed.

Online Netiquette

- What is netiquette? Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word. Basically, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.
- Students are to comply with the following rules of netiquette: (1) identify yourself, (2) include a subject line, (3) avoid sarcasm, (4) respect others' opinions and privacy, (5) acknowledge and return messages promptly, (6) copy with caution, (7) do not spam or junk mail, (8) be concise, (9) use appropriate language, (10) use appropriate emoticons (emotional icons) to help convey meaning, and (11) use appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning [do not use ALL CAPS or multiple exclamation marks (!!!!)].

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the importance of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting 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 "cite a source" correctly, 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 that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing 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 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) using a commercial term paper service.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

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
Week 13	Animal Rights
Week 14	Animal Rights



Week 15	Fall Break
Week 16	Environmental Ethics
Week 17	Final

*****Tentative, subject to change without prior notice*****