

PHIL3000
Ethics 倫理學

Course Outline

Time : W 1:30pm-3:15pm

Location : LSK 304

Tutorial Time to be arranged

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

This course is designed for students to learn how to think about fundamental ethical problems, and how to articulate their thoughts. It also introduces them to some key texts in moral philosophy and helps them to analyze and evaluate the arguments presented therein. Topics to be discussed may include the good life, conceptions of happiness, rationality and morality, duties to others, duties to self.

Advisory to Majors: to be taken in year 2 or above.

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

1. Be familiar with some of the central issues in ethics, which might be issues in history of ethics or in contemporary ethics.
2. Be able to read analytically, such that they can identify distinct parts of an argument and grasp each part's role in the overall structure.
3. Be able to read critically, such that they can raise your own questions and form their own objections to the material.
4. Be able to discuss arguments critically and constructively.
5. Be able to defend their own position by giving reasons and explaining the force of those reasons.

Topics

(See Course Schedule below)

Learning activities

This includes reading, attending lectures, being prepared for tutorial questions, discussion in tutorials, writing short papers, and preparing for the final examination.

Assessment scheme

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Tutorial	Read assigned articles prior to tutorial, and be prepared to answer relevant questions.	20
Three very short papers	Submit three very short papers (2 pages each).	45
Final examination	Take a three-hour final examination	35

Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)**Recommended learning resources****Course schedule**

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Required reading</i>	<i>Tutorials</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	Self-defense	Judith Thomson, "Self-defense"		
2	Self-defense	Michael Otsuka, "Killing the Innocent in Self-Defense"		
3	Demandingness	Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality"		
4	Agent-relative reasons and values	Thomas Nagel, <i>The View from Nowhere</i> , chapter IX.		
5	Self-interest & morality	Thomas Nagel, <i>The View from Nowhere</i> , chapter X.		
6	Utilitarianism	J. S. Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> , chap. 2		
7	Two-level Utilitarianism	R. M. Hare, <i>Moral Thinking</i> , excerpts.		
8	Utilitarianism vs. Contractualism	T. M. Scanlon, "Contractualism and Utilitarianism"		
9	Kant's ethics	Immanuel Kant, <i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , excerpts from chaps. 1 and 2		
10	Kant's ethics	Allen Wood, <i>Kantian Ethics</i> ,		

		chap. 4		
11	Challenges to moral objectivity	Gilbert Harman, The Nature of Morality J. L. Mackie, Ethics, chap. 1		
12	Defending Moral Objectivity	T. M. Scanlon, Being Realistic about Reasons, chaps. 2 and 4		
13	Defending Moral Objectivity	Richard Boyd, "How to be a Moral Realist."		
14	Moral Relativity	Gilbert Harman, "Moral Relativism Defended"		

Details of course website

Contact details for teacher(s) or TA(s)

Teacher	
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TA	
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Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academic_honesty/

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

