Office Hours:
Tuesday and Thursday 2-3:30 and by appointment.

All students are encouraged to come to my office hours whenever they would like. Much of the reading is difficult and it is best to catch problems early. Don’t get too far behind because it will be difficult to catch up.

GTF: Katherine Logan kdlogan@uoregon.edu

Course Description:
This is a class in moral philosophy. It is not the role of moral theory to give answers to particular problems, but to provide frameworks which challenge individuals to think critically and clearly about moral issues and help them come to their own conclusions. Moral philosophy demands that one have reasons for moral decisions and explores possible principles one can apply in an attempt to arrive at a consistent and well thought out moral position. Most of the issues we face have no obvious or immediate answer, but much can be gained by struggling with what appears to be irresolvable.

Given this description of moral philosophy, one should not expect to sit passively in this class and receive answers. It is expected that each student will engage this material actively and thoughtfully. This means you must read carefully and critically, come to class prepared to discuss and ask questions, and be willing to engage alternative perspectives on many issues. This is not an easy thing to do and you should not be afraid to acknowledge the inevitable discomfort and fear that comes with encountering people who think differently. To grow, however, we must fact this discomfort and stretch our thinking in new directions. At its best, this class will help you do just that.

This section has a focus on ethical issues related to food. What should we eat? What shouldn’t we eat? How should we grow, harvest, transport, prepare food? How much should we eat? Who is responsible for our food habits? Are choices about food simply personal choices, or are there ethical, social, and political implications we must take into account?

Texts:
Other readings on Canvas.
Assignments:

Tests: These will be a combination of short answer and essay questions. Study questions will be handed out at least one week prior to the exams. The short answer portion of the test will be completed in class on the day of the review. You must answer four of six questions (10 points each). The essay portion is a take home exam and will be completed on Canvas during the time of our class. You must answer one of two essay questions (60 points).

Final paper: In this paper students will reflect on the two essays they wrote for the tests. They will access the strengths and weakness of the moral theories discussed in those essays. These papers will include a discussion of one of the additional essays from each of our books in the analysis. Then they will take up the food issues discussed in those essays from the perspective of ecofeminism and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of this approach. More detailed directions to follow.

Journal: Each student will keep a food journal. In this journal you will keep track of what you eat, when you eat, where you eat, how you eat, with whom you eat..... It should also include other things you notice about food—how it is packaged, how it is advertised, how it is priced, how it is prepared, where it comes from..... Each entry must also include some reflection on the content of the journal entries using the class readings to prompt and guide this reflection. At least two entries per week. You must complete one before class each day. These will be posted in your individual discussion groups on Canvas. These will be read and graded at unannounced times.

Participation: Discussion is an important part of any philosophy class. Each student is expected to be in class, be prepared to discuss the material, and pay attention to the discussion. At a minimum this entails having done the reading before class and being ready to engage in discussion—including attentive listening.

Grading:

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test #1</td>
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<td>Test #2</td>
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<td>Final paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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PLEASE NOTE: Failure to complete any assignment results in automatic failure of the class.

Academic Honesty
Students who engage in acts of academic dishonesty, which in this class would mean cheating on an exam or paper, will receive a failing grade for the assignment and may fail the class. For a full description of forms of academic dishonesty, please see: https://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/AcademicMisconduct.aspx
Schedule:

September
(T) 29th Introduction

October
(R) 1 From Field to Fork, Intro. and Ch. 1 (1-53)
(T) 6 Virtue ethics and Stoicism; From Field to Fork, Ch. 2 (54-79)
(R) 8 From Field to Fork, Ch. 3 (80-105); Kant, Preface (49-54)
(T) 13 Kant, First Section (55-66); Kant, Second Section (67-81)
(R) 15 Kant, Second Section (81-102)
(T) 20 Kant, Third Section (103-118); From Field to Fork, Ch. 4 (106-129)
(R) 22 Review and Test 1—short answers

(T) 27 Test 1--essay
(R) 29 Mill, Ch. I and II (37-63)

November
(T) 3 Mill, Ch. III and IV (63-77)
(R) 5 From Field to Fork, Ch. 5 (130-158)
(T) 10 Mill, Ch. V (77-100) From Field to Fork, Ch. 6 (159-192)
(R) 12 Fesmire’s chapter on Dewey’s ethics (118-149)—on Canvas
(T) 17 From Field to Fork, ch. 7 (193-226)
(R) 19 Review and Test 2—short answers

(T) 24 Test 2--essay
(R) 26 Thanksgiving break

December
(T) 1 Carol Adams reading—on Canvas; and From Field to Fork, ch. 8 (228-255)
(R) 3 Wrap up

Final Paper due Thursday December 8th by noon. Turn in on Canvas.