PHIL 102: Ethics

Instructor: Maggie Newton

Email: mnewton@uoregon.edu

Office Hours: Mondays & Tuesdays 10am-11am in Susan Campbell Hall 158

Class meeting time: 9-950am M-Th in 301 Condon Hall

*Last day to drop classes without a "W" is Saturday Oct. 5th

Course Description

Ethics is a branch of philosophy that considers questions of right action, moral values, and how one might live responsibly in a world with others. Ethics has the peculiar feature of being directly concerned with both theory and practice, evaluation and exercise. Ethics does not content itself with just asking questions like "*What* ought I do?" or "*What* is the good?" It also addresses the important questions like – "*How* should we live?" or "*How* might we cope?" The aim of this course is to equip you with philosophical tools, terminology, and thought provoking question that you can apply to your daily life for years to come.

Very important note about this course:

This course will ask you to engage with some highly charged and deeply personal ethical issues. All students will be expected to remain respectful towards each other at all times. Although thoughtful disagreement is welcome, always keep in mind that we are here to learn from one another's unique perspectives, and that this cannot happen if you do not come to class open to listening to each other's differing viewpoints.

Required Texts:

- Lewis Vaugh, *Doing Ethics*, 5th edition
    - There is an ebook version and a printed versions - either works, but make sure you purchase access to InQuisitive

<u>Courses Requirements:</u>

Attendance - 5 points

Participation - 10 points

InQuisitive - 8 points

Exam 1 - 30 points

Exam 2 - 30 points

Group Project - 15 points

Max Possible Points to Earn will be 100 (each student will get 2 free points)

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class and the inability to do so will result in a grade reduction. You will be given 2 free absences, but ***I suggest saving those for emergencies.*** There will be no excused absences, excluding instances where **you** (the student) must undergo an unexpected hospitalization. You will receive 5 points for missing no more than 2 absences, and you will lose 1 point per absence after missing 2 days.

Participation: In this class, ***participation is NOT free points, the points are earned.*** Participation is measured by how frequently you engage in small and large group discussions throughout the course. If the thought of speaking in class terrifies you, you may upload discussion posts on Canvas and/or visit me during office hours. For all three of these methods, follow the grading guidelines below:

> 10-9 – Excellent: the Student consistently took on a very active role in contributing to our class small and large discussions. Furthermore, they raised thought provoking questions in class, and showed clear signs of having done the reading (e.g. brought their book to class and referenced the text in discussion). Moreover, they were respectful of their peers in class. Lastly, the Student was never distracted in class by naps, personal cell phones, earphones, or other similar devices.
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> 8-7 – Very good: the Student often took on a very active role in small and large discussions and brought their book to every class. Moreover, they were respectful of their peers in class. Lastly, the Student was never distracted in class by naps, personal cell phones, earphones, or other similar devices.
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> 6-4 – Good/Pass: the Student sometimes participated in small discussions, but did participate in large group discussions (or vice-versa), and only brought their book to class sometimes. Although, they were respectful of their peers in class, they might have been occasionally distracted by naps, personal cell phones, earphones, or other such devices.
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> 3-2 – Poor: the Student only participated in small or large discussions very rarely or never, and only occasionally brought their book to class. Moreover, they were respectful

of their peers in class. Lastly, the Student might have often been distracted in class by naps, personal cell phones, earphones, or other such devices.

1-0 – Fail: the Student's participation grade could be characterized as a "Poor" (as stated above) but they were rude or disrespectful to their peers or myself during class or caused irrelevant class disruptions in anyway.

*I will not use class time to police student's use of cell phones and electronics, desire to take a nap, or otherwise not be involved in what's happening in class, but I will notice and these choices will affect your participation grade.

Exams: At the end of Weeks 4 and 8, you will be tested on your comprehension of material covered in weeks 1-4 and weeks 5-8, respectively (the exams are **not comprehensive)**. The exams will involve multiple choice, true/false, short answer, etc. **The exams will be in-class**, last 50 minutes, and hold ~10-35 questions.

Important Note About Exams:** in class, we may or may not cover every concept, idea, etc. found in all of the assigned chapters, however you may be tested on anything found in the chapters assigned. Therefore, I strongly recommend reading and taking notes as you read, ***do not rely solely on powerpoints/lectures and class notes when studying for the exams.

Group Project: During the last few weeks of the term, you will work with a group to address and assess a contemporary ethical issue. Instructions and grading rubric will be provided at a later date.

Electronics

You may use a laptop or tablet to access your textbook, **only.** If I see you using your electronics for other purposes, you will have points deducted from your participation grade. **Cell phones are strictly prohibited**. While in class, you are **not** allowed to read your textbook on your cell phone.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating will result in a 0 for the assignment and potentially a failure from the course. Please review these tips and guidelines for avoiding plagiarism: http://library.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/index.html

And, be mindful of the university's plagiarism policy: http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/AcademicMisconduct/tabid/2 48/Default.aspx

Document Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and need accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible.