

PHIL 152-2: Philosophical Ideas: Human Values
TR 11:40am-1:20pm

Instructor: Nathaniel Greely
office hours (in E&T A422): TR 11:40-3pm
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This course examines a number of theories and particular questions about morality and values, such as what makes actions right, whether there is really any basis for morality, whether morality depends upon religion, whether pleasure is really all that ultimately matters, etc. The class is meant to expose you to different views, but also to provide you with guidance and practice in reading carefully, reconstructing arguments and lines of thought, critically examining the arguments or reasons given for a position, and expressing your own ideas and analyses in written form.

Learning Outcomes

Students successfully completing this course will:

- Gain familiarity with views on various moral theories and controversies
- Increase their critical thinking skills, to better examine their own and others' views
- Increase their level of ability and confidence in expressing views orally
- Be able to express ideas and arguments in written essays

Texts: *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, James Rachels (at CSULA bookstore)

Grades

The assignments for the course are listed below. The percentage following each assignment indicates the percentage of your overall course grade determined by the particular assignment.

Midterm (30%): Tentatively scheduled for May. 5

Final exam (30%): Scheduled for Jun. 9 (The final is not cumulative)

Term Paper (30%): Due Jun. 4 11:59 pm

Class Participation (10%): Students who show up to class and participate will see this reflected positively in their grade. Those who are absent, either mentally or physically, will lose points.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	C	68-71
A-	89-92	C-	64-67
B+	84-88	D+	59-63
B	80-83	D	55-58
B-	76-79	D-	51-54
C+	72-75	F	0-50

Late Work

Late work will be accepted only if you arrange for it in advance, or if you present a documented excuse (like a doctor's note) for a genuine emergency. Otherwise, no make-up quizzes or exam will be given.

Course Topics and Readings

The following is the tentative course schedule. Slight adjustments may be necessary due to the needs of the class.

Mar. 31 – Campus Holiday, no class

Apr. 2 – Course Introduction – What is Morality?

- Reading: Rachels Ch.1

Apr. 7 – Cultural Relativism

- Reading: Rachels Ch.2

Apr. 9 – Cultural Relativism cont.

- Reading: Rachels Ch. 2

Apr. 14 – Subjectivism

- Reading: Rachels Ch. 3

Apr. 16 – Subjectivism cont.

- Reading: Rachels Ch. 3

Apr. 21 – Morality and Religion

- Reading: Rachels Ch. 4

Apr. 23 – Morality and Religion cont.

- Readings: Rachels Ch. 4

Apr. 28 – Ethical Egoism

- Readings: Rachels Ch. 5

Apr. 30 – Ethical Egoism cont.

- Readings: Rachels Ch. 5

May. 5 – Midterm (Paper Topics Posted)

May. 7 – Social Contract Theory

- Readings: Rachels Ch. 6

May. 12 – Social Contract Theory cont.

- Reading: Rachels Ch. 6

May. 14 – Utilitarianism

- Reading: Rachels Ch. 7

May. 19 – Utilitarianism cont.

- Reading: Rachels Ch. 8

May. 21 – Absolute Moral Rules

- Reading: Rachels Ch. 9

May. 26 – Absolute Moral Rules cont.

- Readings: Rachels Ch. 10

May. 28 – Feminism and Care Ethics **DRAFT OF PAPER DUE**

- Reading: Rachels Ch. 11

Jun. 2 – Virtue Ethics

- Readings: Rachels Ch. 12

Jun. 4 – Virtue Ethics cont.

- Readings: Rachels Ch. 12 **TERM PAPER DUE**

June. 9 – Final Exam

Cheating and Plagiarism

You must do your own work for the class. If you cheat on any assignment, you will receive a zero on that assignment. For more information you can see the section on plagiarism on the CSULA website: <http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/senate/handbook/appf.htm>.

Students with Disabilities

The University provides reasonable accommodations to students with documented physical and learning disabilities. Faculty members fully support the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and will provide reasonable accommodation to any student with a disability who is registered with the Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) and needs and requests accommodation. OSD may be contacted to verify the presence of a disability and to confirm that accommodation is necessary. The Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), located in Student Affairs Room 115 coordinates all documentation of disabilities.
(323-343-3140) <http://www.calstatela.edu/univ/osd/>