

Syracuse University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Philosophy
Introduction to Moral Philosophy
Spring, 2022
Dr. Ryan

Office: Zoom

Office Hours: By Appointment

Cell: 606-356-6560, feel free to text or call between 9 am and 8 pm

Email: pryan03@syr.edu

Required Text: None

Pre-Requisite: None

Audience: This is an introductory level moral philosophy class intended for an audience of persons beginning higher education with general knowledge and above average analytical skills who want to explore their own and others moral beliefs and philosophies. Living the good life for humans is the main topic of the course.

Credits: 3

Course Description:

Classical and contemporary readings on basic topics in moral philosophy.

Learning Objectives:

After taking this course, the student should be able to explain the major moral philosophies and the impact they have had in shaping Western Civilization. The student should be able to use this information in a constructive manner to be a more informed person demonstrated by their ability to engage any topic

from different positions. The student will be a more reflective and informed citizen. By the conclusion of this course, students will be able to understand diverse moral perspectives. It is further expected that the student will be able to produce substantive scholarly written work as well as the ability to present and discuss that written work.

Requirements:

Weekly Forum Posts: (5 x 30 = 150)

The first seven weeks, the Professor will post a prompt for class reflection on Black Board under the Assignments tab. CHECK THE DAILY ASSIGNMENTS UNDER THE ANNOUNCEMENT TAB TO THE LEFT FOR DATES OF WFP'S. *Note that while WFP's will be posted at the end of each week as stated on the Daily Assignments, WFP's are not due until May 16.* It is however strongly recommended that you keep up with the WFP's as they are about that weeks topic and you will write a better response if you do them as we go along rather than try to do them all at the end. The Rubric for WFP's is below. It will also be posted on the Contents page.

Exam: 400 Points

After we have discussed the four major philosophers' theories, we will have an Exam over them. The Exam is the only Exam for the semester and is worth 400 points. It is expected that the student will be able to demonstrate their ability to understand the political philosophies discussed in class intimately and in a scholarly manner. The student will also be expected to use this knowledge to assess current moral issues in a scholarly and substantive manner.

Forum Posts: (5 x 50 = 250 points)

For each of the Moral Issues that we discuss in class, the professor will post a prompt for student to offer their discussion and reflection on the topic. Points will be earned solely by maintaining a level of reflection and discussion consistent with a college philosophy class.

Attendance and Participation:

Due to the COVID situation leading to people being in diverse places and times (and many other daily living concerns), the Professor will be as flexible as humanly possible while still protecting the academic integrity of the class. Should you find yourself missing classes, you should reach out to me so that we can help you do your best in this class.

Attendance via Zoom or in person is expected from each student for each class. Blackboard keeps track of who is attending class, who is spending time reading materials, etc.

It should be noted that the Professor reserves the right to drop a student's grade a full letter grade for missing more than 3 sessions and the Professor reserves the right to fail a student who misses more than 5 sessions.

Evaluation Point Total:

Weekly Forum Post (5x30)	150	
Exam	300	
Moral Issue Forum Posts		
(5 x 50)	<u>250</u>	
TOTAL	700	Points Available

Final Grades:

Students Final Grades will be determined by the percentage of points earned out of percentage of points available, ***attendance and participation will be evaluated at this time as well to determine any impact on grades.***

Letter Grades will be distributed on the following scale:

95-100=A

90-94= A-

87-89=B+

84-87=B

80-83=B-

77-79=C+

74-77=C

70-73=C-

65-69=D

60-64=D-

59 or Below=F

Any **late work** or **make-up work** must be discussed with the Professor. Each case will be handled in the manner the Professor sees best depending on the situation. In general, make-up work will be allowed for University approved excuses for two weeks following the missed work. Late work will not generally be accepted but the Professor is willing to consider individual cases and may allow for late work with a deduction of points. The Professor reserves the right to not accept late work at all.

Disability-Related Accommodations:

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>, located in Room 309 of 804 University Avenue, or call (315) 443-4498, TDD: (315) 443-1371 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue students with documented Disabilities Accommodation Authorization Letters, as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

Diversity and Disability:

Syracuse University values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. My goal is to create learning environments that are useable, equitable, inclusive and welcoming. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment or achievement, I invite any student to meet with me to discuss additional strategies beyond accommodations that may be helpful to your success.

***Academic Integrity Policy:**

Syracuse University's academic integrity policy reflects the high value that we, as a university community, place on honesty in academic work. The policy defines

our expectations for academic honesty and holds students accountable for the integrity of all work they submit. Students should understand that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about university-wide academic integrity expectations. The university policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same written work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors. The presumptive penalty for a first instance of academic dishonesty by an undergraduate student is course failure, accompanied by a transcript notation indicating that the failure resulted from a violation of academic integrity policy. The presumptive penalty for a first instance of academic dishonesty by a graduate student is suspension or expulsion. SU students are required to read an online summary of the university's academic integrity expectations and provide an electronic signature agreeing to abide by them twice a year during pre-term check-in on MySlice. For more information and the complete policy, see <http://academicintegrity.syr.edu/>.

ORANGE ALERT:

Orange Alert, SU's crisis notification system, uses text messages, phone, and email alerts to provide rapid notification and instructions to members of the University community in the event of a critical incident in progress. Critical incidents could include an individual who is considered armed and dangerous, a hazardous materials incident, an explosion, or any other event in which there is an immediate threat of physical harm or death to campus community members. We recognize that faculty may consider activated cell phones as an interruption to their class. However, the public safety department recommends that faculty members leave their own cell phones on vibrate in order to receive text messages about a potential emergency situation. It is also recommended that faculty designate several class members to leave their cell phones on vibrate in order to receive notifications in the event of a critical incident. ORANGE ALERT contact information for students, faculty, and staff is drawn from the MySlice online information system; please keep your contact information current.

In the event of an emergency,

- Phone emergency line from on-campus: 711
- Phone emergency line from off-campus: 315.443.2224

- Phone emergency line from cell phone providers ATT/Verizon/Nextel: #78

For complete details on emergency procedures, visit: <http://emergencyguide.syr.edu/>. Refer to the Daily Assignments syllabus under the Announcements tab for the day to day information.

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DAILY ASSIGNMENTS

These are the readings and topics assigned for each day of class this semester. Refer to the Main Syllabus for issues regarding class policies, etc. You should check this often so that you can come to class prepared.

ALL READINGS ARE ON BLACKBOARD under the Contents tab.

The readings are due before class starts, not after. That is, we are discussing Plato on Thursday, I expect that you will have read Plato by Thursday.

WEEKLY FORUM POSTS ARE NOT DUE UNTIL MAY 13.

HOWEVER, IT IS MY ADVICE TO KEEP UP WITH THE POSTS AS THEY ARE POSTED AS ONCE YOU FALL BEHIND, IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO KEEP UP.

*Be advised, the Professor reserves the right to alter these assignments as necessary with proper notification.

Jan 25

Intro
of Socrates

Jan 27:

Trial and Death

Feb.

1
3:

Feb.

Plato

WFP One

Feb

8:

.10:

Feb

Aristotle

WFP Two

Feb 15:

Feb 17:

Kant

WFP Three

Feb 22:

Feb 24:

Utilitarians

WFP Four

-

March

1:

3:

March

Nietzsche and Ethical Egoism

WFP Five

March

8:

10

March

Exam Review

**Exam Posted March 11, due March 21
@ 11:59 pm.**

March 13-March 20: SPRING BREAK

March
22:
rch 24:

Ma

Euthanasia

Forum Post One Posted March 25, due

May 13

April 5:
April 7:

Mass Incarceration and the War on Drugs

Forum Post Two Posted April 8, due May 13.

April
12:
ril 14:

Ap

Reparations

Forum Post Three Posted April 15, due May 13

April
19:
il 21:

Apr

Distributive Justice

Forum Post Four Posted April 30, due May 13.

April 26:
April 28:

Global Distributive Justice

Forum Post Five Posted April 29, due May 13.

May
3:

Reflections

ALL Forum Posts Due May 13.