

Professor: Larry Temkin  
Office: 106 Somerset St. CAC Rm. 523  
Office Hours: T. 2:45 -4:00: p.m. and by appt.  
e-mail: ltemkin@philosophy.rutgers.edu  
(PLEASE e-mail me **only** to set up an appointment,  
or AFTER first addressing your question to one of the TAs)

Philosophy 105 Spring Term, 2020  
Current Moral and Social Issues  
Milledoler Hall Rm 100, CAC  
Tuesday and Thursday  
1:10 – 2:30 p.m.

Teaching Assistant's Information:

Aaron Rabinowitz  
Office Hours: M./W. 1:30-2:30, in Miller 210, CAC.  
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*Required Materials:*

- GMM -- *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Kant
- U -- *Utilitarianism*, Mill
- CW -- Class Website (CANVAS), *Abortion Articles*, *Punishment Articles*,  
*Singer*, and *Temkin articles*
- MQ -- *Mortal Questions*, Nagel

The texts should be available at Barnes and Nobel. Most should also be available on Amazon and other internet sites. CW should be available on the class website (CANVAS) which should be downloadable. Please note which readings are due when, and MAKE SURE that you have the relevant texts *well in advance* so as to leave sufficient time to read them several times *carefully before class*.

All students will need old fashioned paper or notebooks and suitable writing utensils for taking class notes as electronic means of note taking are prohibited (see below).

*Core Curriculum Learning Goal:*

This course meets goal "o": Examine critically philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of reality, human experience, knowledge, value, and/or cultural production. Assessment will be by an SAS generic rubric embedded in the evaluation criteria laid out in this syllabus.

*Required Work and Important Rules and Regulations:*

Philosophy is hard and not easily learned "on one's own." Correspondingly, students are expected to attend lectures virtually every time, and to keep up with *all* readings. If you miss any portion of a class period, it is *your* responsibility to get notes on the lecture, as well as to find out--*prior to the next class*--about any important announcements, changed assignments, etc. It is *very* important that you do so.

There will be two exams during the semester and a final during the exam period. There will also be short homework assignments that you are *required* to do. Failure to do the homework will seriously affect your grade. In addition, attendance will be taken.

Poor attendance will adversely affect your grade, and abysmal attendance is automatic grounds for failure. The details of all this and my grading policies will be explained during class (and to some extent on a separate handout), and it is *your* responsibility to make sure you fully understand them. Whatever is spelled out in detail in class will be binding on all class members whether or not it appears on a written course document, so it is imperative that you find out if you have missed any important announcements. If your grades are borderline, the quality of your homework, your attendance record, and contributions during or outside of class (for example, in office hours or discussions with the TA) will be used to determine your final grade. Also, the questions for the final will be handed out in advance, so, ***IF YOU FAIL THE FINAL YOU FAIL THE COURSE***. Passing the final is a necessary, but not sufficient, condition for passing the course.

This is an *ETHICS* course! *All* forms of cheating, lying, plagiarizing, and such (including, for example, “signing” in for someone else for attendance purposes, or using someone else’s work or substantial amounts of other people’s notes) are *automatic* grounds for *FAILURE* for *all* parties involved. Notes taken during class are for your *personal* use only. You can, of course, share a day’s notes with someone who had to miss class for some reason, but in general people are responsible for taking their own notes and should not be relying on someone else’s notes for a large portion of the class. Failure to abide by these rules is also automatic grounds for failure, as well as other disciplinary action by the university. All members of the class will be asked to read and sign a pledge acknowledging that they understand and will abide by these rules. Students will not be allowed to remain in the class if they fail to sign the pledge. If you have *any* questions about any of this, ***ASK ME*** or the TA! ***NO EXCUSES*** will be accepted for a failure to understand your responsibilities in the class.

**Electronic Policies:** The use of cell phones, PDAs, and other communication devices during class is not permitted. If you expect to have to make an emergency call or text, or need to be available to receive an emergency call or text, please notify me and the TA of this and leave the classroom as quietly as possible to attend to the matter. All phones and other communication devices, as well as headphones, should be put away once the class begins. You may leave them turned on, provided that they are on a silent setting.

Similarly, except for medical reasons, cleared with me or the TA *in advance*, the use of laptops, notebooks, IPADS, etc. is *not* permitted, and they too are to be put away before class begins. Notes must be taken by hand using paper or notebooks, and pen or pencil.

Except in exceptional, emergency, cases, students who have an electronic device out during the class (even if they are not actively using it!), or who have a sound emanate from such a device during the class will receive a warning the first time that happens. The second time is automatic grounds for lowering your final grade by one third, and each additional violation of the policy is automatic grounds for an *additional* lowering of your final grade by one half of a grade.

If you have a disability that requires special consideration, please be sure to discuss this matter with me or one of the TAs during the first few weeks of class.

I fully expect this to be a *TERRIFIC* class. You should find it interesting and important. With your help, it will even be a whole lot of fun!!! Learn lots! L.S.T.

*Readings, etc.* (subject to change!)

I. Moral Theory: Kantianism and Utilitarianism

- Jan. 21 T -- Exciting Introduction to Get You Salivating About the Class  
23 Th -- More Introduction.
- 28 T -- Kant, GMM, Preface *and* First Section  
30 Th -- Kant, GMM, Second Section
- Feb. 4 T -- Kant, GMM, First and Second Sections (*reread*) **FIRST HOMEWORK DUE ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE.**  
6 Th -- Mill, U, chs. 1 & 2
- 11 T -- Mill, U. chs. 3 & 4  
13 Th -- Mill, U. (reskim *all* of chapters 1-4)
- 18 T -- Finish(?) Moral Theory, Questions and Discussion  
**SECOND HOMEWORK DUE ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE**  
20 Th -- Students' day to shine!!! (i.e. **FIRST TEST**)

II. Abortion and Related Issues

- 25 T -- Pope John Paul II & Marquis, CW  
27 Th -- Sumner, CW
- Mar. 3 T -- Tooley, CW  
5 Th -- Thomson, CW
- 10 T -- *DEBATE* infanticide/euthanasia **THIRD HOMEWORK DUE ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE**  
12 Th -- Retributivist theories. Kant, Bradley, and Mabbot, CW, pp. 102-106, 109-110, & 165-181
- 17 T -- Spring Break. Rest. Relax. Catch up. Enjoy!!!  
19 Th -- Still Spring Break. See above!!!

III. Punishment and Related Issues

- 24 T -- A teleological theory and a response. Bentham & McCloskey, CW, pp. 56-63 & 119-134  
26 Th -- Another teleological theory and another response

Brandt, Ross, CW, pp. 93-101 & 145-152

- 31 T -- Alternatives to Punishment. Shaw, Darrow, CW,  
pp. 281-299 & 360-364
- Apr. 2 Th -- *DEBATE* on capital punishment—CW, pp. 249-278  
FOURTH HOMEWORK DUE ON OR BEFORE THIS  
DATE
- 7 T -- Groan. Mutter. Yet another chance to shine! (i.e. TEST)
- IV. Deep Questions about Equality, Justice, and the Meaning of Life
- 9 Th -- Nagel, MQ, "Subjective and Objective"
- 14 T -- Nagel, MQ, "The Absurd" *and* "Ethics without Biology"
- 16 Th -- Nagel, MQ, "The Policy of Preference"/Lecture on Reverse  
Discrimination/Affirmative Action FIFTH HOMEWORK  
DUE ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE
- 21 T -- Singer and Temkin, CW, "Famine, Affluence, and  
Morality," and "Why Should America Care?"
- 23 Th -- Temkin, CW, Uehiro Lectures I and II, "Obligations to the  
Needy: Effective Altruism, Pluralism, and Singer's Pond  
Example," and "Obligations to the Needy: Singer's Pond  
Example versus Supporting International Aid  
Organizations—Some Disanalogies and Their Normative  
Significance"
- 28 T -- Temkin, CW, Uehiro Lecture III "Obligations to the Needy:  
Some Empirical Worries and Uncomfortable Philosophical  
Possibilities"
- 30 Th -- Philosophy 101, this is *your* life! (NOT an EXAM)  
SIXTH HOMEWORK DUE ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE

Final Exam: Tuesday May 8th—8am-11am