

Introduction To Ethics
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Department of Philosophy
Rutgers University
Fall 2013

Course Information

Instructor	Marcello Antosh
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Course website	http://onlinelearning.rutgers.edu/ecollege
Course meeting time	Tuesdays and Thursdays
Office hours	To be announced, and by appointment

Overview

This fully online course is an introduction to several important issues related to morality. We will discuss both major moral theories (e.g. consequentialism, Kantianism) as well as particular moral issues (e.g. genetic engineering, duties to the needy). We will also briefly touch on some of the psychological underpinnings of morality.

Lectures And Materials

You are not required to purchase any materials for this course. All readings will be made available on the course website.

Goals

Besides introducing you to these philosophical issues and with philosophy in general, this course has two main goals. The first is to develop your ability to reason more rigorously, especially with respect to the subjects we discuss. The second is to enhance your ability to express this reasoning clearly and concisely in writing. By doing these things, you will be satisfying the Rutgers Core Curriculum Goal of critically examining philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of reality, human experience, knowledge, value, and/or cultural production.

Special Needs Or Accommodations

If you have any special needs or accommodations, please let me know so that I can assist you as soon as possible. Additionally, the university-wide policy on this matter is as follows:

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>

If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>

Academic Integrity

If you are facing a deadline and are considering cheating in some way, you are better off emailing me, and explaining your situation to me rather than trying to cheat. I'm pretty easygoing and would like to help you out.

Academic violations, such as cheating on either exam or plagiarizing either paper, may result in failure of an assignment or the course. Please familiarize yourself with the university policy on academic integrity.

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/policy-on-academic-integrity>

Grading

There will be a handful of short written assignments in this course. These assignments will largely test your understanding of the ideas discussed in this course and your ability to make reasonable arguments about them. There will be no long written assignments and no timed exams.

There will be two types of written assignments in this course. The first kind will ask you to summarize in an extremely brief fashion the main point of some reading item. The second kind will require you to take a moral stance on some issue and defend this stance. Details on the assignments will come as the course progresses.

Late Policy

Try to turn in assignments on time: it makes it easier for me to grade all assignments fairly and in a reasonable amount of time. If you believe you may need extra time on an assignment, please email me so we can discuss that. I may not accept late work if you don't email me first. I'll announce specific details on the late policy for each assignment as they are assigned.

Attendance

This course is fully online so there is no classroom attendance. However this course is cumulative in the sense that the initial material provides tools which will be used later in the course. For this reason it is extremely important that you keep up with the readings and lectures, which will be provided online.

Online Conduct

Some purely optional elements of the course may involve online comments or forums. Please be respectful of others online: be considerate of the opinions of others, and sensitive to any confusions or difficulties they might be having.

Participation

There will be no participation based grades in the course, though there will be a forum on the course website to talk with me and each other about the issues discussed in the readings. The major reason for participating in this forum is that it may help you better understand the readings, the assignments, and your own views about particular moral issues being discussed.

Course Schedule

Please visit the course website for the course schedule. The website has both lecture slides and reading materials for each Tuesday and Thursday of the semester. I strongly encourage you to stick to the schedule and not fall behind.