I. Course Description
PHIL 730:107 sect. 2: Introduction to Ethics is an intensive survey course. We will cover virtually every substantive issue peculiar to meta-ethics and normative ethical theory.

II. Learning Objectives
1. Students will develop the skill to properly interpret scholarly literature in the field of Ethics and in the sub-fields of meta-ethics and normative ethics.
2. Students will develop the ability to write a philosophy paper in the field of Ethics.
3. Students will acquire the ability to engage in philosophical inquiry about issues peculiar to Ethics.
4. Students will learn all of the leading meta-ethical theories and normative ethical theories, including, but not limited to, moral realism, moral fictionalism, moral error theory, moral cognitivism, moral non-cognitivism, utilitarianism, Kantianism, contractualism, and virtue ethics.

III. General Approach
On designated quiz days (see the schedule below), at the start of class I will administer a quiz over the assigned reading material, as well as the material presented during previous lectures. I will then collect the quizzes and go over the correct answers taking any questions you might have. I will then make a few points about the assigned reading, and subsequently start lecturing through material. On days we do not take a quiz, we will first discuss the assigned reading, and then move into the content of a new lecture. All lectures will be supported by PowerPoint slides.

IV. Textbook
The required textbooks for this course are:


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1 The Instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus when he deems that a change is necessary.
V. Assignments and Grading

Preparation and Class Attendance 10%
You are expected to read all of the assigned material. You are also expected to ask questions during the lectures and participate in in-class activities. **Missing more than two classes will affect your grade.** If you are absent, you might want to e-mail a classmate and get the notes. It is your responsibility to keep up with any work you miss. Class participation grades will also be affected if disrespect is shown to others.

Quizzes 30%
These will be given at the beginning of class on designated quiz days (see the schedule below) and will cover material peculiar to the assigned reading and lecture material of the preceding classes. **Your lowest quiz score will be dropped and will not count against you.** If you miss a quiz because you are late to or absent from class, you will receive a zero for that quiz, but remember, your lowest quiz score will not count against you.

Short Paper 25%
Your short paper must be on an issue in meta-ethics that we discussed in class. You should argue for or against a meta-ethical position, advancing arguments for your position. You must have your short paper topic approved by Instructor Weaver by February 11th, 2014. Your paper must be 3 pages *single spaced*, justified, and in Times New Roman font (size 12), with one inch margins. The paper must be documented in the University of Chicago manual style and should include a bibliography. **Short papers are due in PDF format via email, on March 11th, 2014 at 11:00am.**

Final Paper 35%
Your final paper must be on a topic covered in class or in one of the textbooks (it must be different from the topic you wrote your short paper on). You must have your final paper topic approved by Instructor Weaver by March 31st. Your paper must be 7 to 10 pages *single spaced*, justified, and in Times New Roman font (size 12), with one inch margins. The paper must be documented in the University of Chicago manual style and should include a bibliography. **Final papers are due in PDF format via email, on May 5th, 2014 at 11:00am.**

VI. Schedule for the Winter Session

(All readings in red are mandatory; all other readings are supplementary and helpful but not required. The underlined readings will be provided for you.)

Part 1: Meta-ethics

0 (Tuesday, January 21st): Introduction to Ethics
1 (Friday, January 24th): Moral Non-Cognitivism and Moral Fictionalism (Quiz Today)

2 (Tuesday, January 28th): Moral Cognitivism

3 (Friday, January 31st): Moral Error Theory (Quiz Today)

4 (Tuesday, February 4th): Against Moral Error Theory

5 (Friday, February 7th): The Open Question Argument and the Naturalistic Fallacy (Quiz Today)

6 (Tuesday, February 11th): Responses to the Open Question Argument

7 (Friday, February 14th): Ethical Naturalism (Quiz Today)

8 (Tuesday, February 18th): Ethical Non-Naturalism
9 (Friday, February 21st): Moral Realism (Quiz Today)

10 (Tuesday, February 25th): Divine Command Theory

11 (Friday, February 28th): The Humean Theory of Morality and Practical Rationality (Quiz Today)

12 (Tuesday, March 4th): The Kantian View of Morality and Practical Rationality

13 (Friday, March 7th): Ethics and Biology (Quiz Today)

Part 2: Normative Ethics

14 (Tuesday, March 11th): Value Theory (Short Paper due Today)

15 (Friday, March 14th): Ethical Relativism (Quiz Today)

16 (Tuesday, March 25th): Deontology

17 (Friday, March 28th): Consequentialism (Quiz Today)
18 (Tuesday, April 1st): Utilitarianisms

19 (Friday, April 4th): Kantian Ethics (Quiz Today)

20 (Tuesday, April 8th): Virtue Ethics

21 (Friday, April 11th): Contractualism (Quiz Today)

22 (Tuesday, April 15th): Hedonism

23 (Friday, April 18th): Ethical Egoism (Quiz Today)

24 (Tuesday, April 22nd): Ethical Pluralism

25 (Friday, April 25th): Feminist Ethics (Quiz Today)
26 (Tuesday, April 29th): Natural Law Theory

27 (Friday, May 2nd): Theory, Practice, and Moral Reasoning (Quiz Today)

Final papers are due in PDF format via email, on May 5th, 2014 at 11:00am.

VI. Current Academic Integrity Policy
To view the current academic integrity policy, visit the link here.

VII. Self-Reporting Absence Application:
“Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/ to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me [the instructor].”