

*Philosophy is the strangest of subjects: it aims at rigor and yet is unable to establish any results; it attempts to deal with the most profound questions and yet constantly finds itself preoccupied with the trivialities of language; and it claims to be of great relevance to rational enquiry and the conduct of our life and yet is almost completely ignored. But perhaps what is strangest of all is the passion and intensity with which it is pursued by those who have fallen in its grip.*

Kit Fine (Professor of Philosophy, NYU)

## **Introduction to Ethics**

**Janelle Derstine, Ph.D (Rutgers)**

**PHL 107**

**Winter 2014**

**Online Course—Consult Sakai for schedule**

Contact: The best way to reach me is by emailing me at [janellederstine@gmail.com](mailto:janellederstine@gmail.com)  
**Always** include your **LAST NAME** and **Ethics 107** in any correspondence.

**Office Hours:** by appointment. I am available to talk by phone if that's more convenient (just email and ask).

**Required Text:** *Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues, 8th Edition* By McKinnon and Fiala.

Purchase online e-text at:

[http://www.coursesmart.com/IR/1107640/9781285196756?\\_hdv=6.8](http://www.coursesmart.com/IR/1107640/9781285196756?_hdv=6.8)

*ISBN: 9781285196756*

*You may buy a hard copy online, but since you will need it immediately, I suggest getting the e-text or borrowing an online copy. It may or may not be available at B&N.*

### **Undergraduate Learning Outcomes:**

As a result of fully participating in this class, students will be able to:

- a) Understand the key theories and concepts involved in contemporary and classical Ethical Theory.

- b) Critically examine how these theories pertain to current debates in the field.
- c) Summarize, write and verbalize key theories and concepts studied.

### **Expectations for All Students:**

All participants in the course are expected to:

- 1) Commit to attending each class session, or online session;
- 2) Be prepared to discuss assigned readings and engage positively in class activities;
- 3) Be willing to examine and share their own issues and experiences;
- 4) Be respectful of different perspectives offered by classmates and professor
- 5) Complete assignments and participate in online discussions weekly
- 6) Submit a CTAAR (teaching evaluation) at the end of the course

### **Grading:**

**45 %:** 4 sets of 10 study questions (SQs) on readings, approx. (listed on Sakai SQ tab & uploaded onto Sakai Assignments tab) and online quizzes (tbd). The study questions require doing A LOT of reading, and they are typically about 6 pages or more of (double-spaced) typing. (That's why there's no midterm!)

**25 %:** Regular online posts to discussion board topics (approx. 750 words per week). See Sakai for details.

**30 %:** Final essay take home (5 pages), turned in on Sakai.

### **IMPORTANT:**

**Technology will be used heavily:** you must familiarize yourself with Sakai in order to do well in this class. **You must be able to access the web regularly—as in, daily—this is going to be an intensive course—we are packing 14 weeks into 4!!**

**Weekly Schedule : Check on Sakai, under the tab with week #, for resources, etc. Remember to participate in discussion!**

Week 1: Introduction to ethical theory & Religion and Global Ethics

For Week 2: Ethical Relativism & Egoism Altruism and the Social Contract

For Week 3: Utilitarianism & Deontological Theories

For Week 4: Natural Law and Virtue Ethics

Final essay, due on Sakai on date scheduled final; most likely January 16 2015