"If, like truth, the lie had but one face, we would be on better terms. For we would accept as certain the opposite of what the liar would say. But the reverse of truth has a hundred thousand faces and an infinite field."

-Montaigne, *Essays*-

"Ethics deals with things to be sought and things to be avoided, with ways of life and with the telos (the chief good or aim of life)."

-Epicurus, quoted by Diogenes Laertius-

“We are discussing no small matter, but how we ought to live.”
-Socrates, as reported by Plato in the *Republic*-

“Shun Evil. Do Good.”

-Buddha-

“Poor is the pupil who does not surpass his master.”


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INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS
Hopkins
Office Hours:

Required Instructional Materials:
Selected Blackboard Readings (Bb)
Selected Handouts and Readings (SH and SR)
Bound Notebook or Folder

Course Objectives:
“Socrates was right when he suggested, well over two millennia ago, that determining how to live is “no small matter.” (found in Plato’s Republic)

In support and agreement with the above, it is my hope that PHI 125 will fulfill the following:

- You will be introduced to various global moral theories, approaches and issues in ethics and begin to identify your own ethical biases and perspectives and methods.
- You will understand and participate in ethical decision making in theory, practice and debate.
- You will acquired additional critical thinking skills.
- You will explore issues as rethought in post-modern terms; i.e. African-American, Post-Colonial, Feminist, and Asian perspectives. Your text book is cutting edge in this area, but there might also be some select handouts given needed.
- You will acquire and demonstrate a philosophical ethics vocabulary helpful in the taking of future philosophy and humanities courses.
- You will be able to better recognize and decipher personal ethical dilemmas, no matter how intricate and complex.
- You will discover and enjoy meaningful philosophy in writing forms other than philosophical ones.
Course Requirements:

1. A Directed Ethics Journal (3 CHOICES FROM 5); Study Guide/Study Questions (Text); one response micro-essay for each 10% each out of choices = 30%

2. 5 Debates (notes required) 10% each = 50%

3. Individual Teaching of any Reading, Any Chapter after 3 (prompt/rubric and sign-up to follow) =20%

1. The Directed Journal

The following are required for an “A” quality journal:

- Careful paragraph definitions and discussions of terms provided in a study guide.
- Careful answering of study questions found after each philosopher in text; page;
- written essay focusing on debate question and reading of two Bb readings on this question; detailed notes also required;
  - Must provide quotes (either in annotated bibliography or throughout body of project);
  - Must be a one-page+ response essay to the essay debate question;
  - THERE ARE FIVE OPPORTUNITIES (ONE FOR EACH DEBATE, BUT YOU ARE REQUIRED TO DO THREE ONLY)

2. The Debates

Five (5) times this semester you will prepare for and participate in a debate based on a class vote and pertaining to the context of our readings. It may be something as broad as defining an ethical term – the good, the bad, justice, fairness, responsibility etc. Or, you may want to explore a normative or applied ethical issue, i.e. animal rights, ecological accountability, plagiarism, cheating, lying, immigration, sexuality, the legalization of a presently outlawed substance, terrorism, an ecological issue, just war, justification for violence, the role of religion in ethics, birth control, the roles of feelings, kindness, etc. You may also wish to explore a fundamental ethical thinker (Aristotle, Daly, Fanon, Nietzsche, Santideva, Mill, Kant, Confucius, Dussel, Noddings etc.), or an approach to ethics (Care, Utilitarianism, Buddhist, Virtue, Pluralist etc.) in greater detail. The list is long and open ended, so I shall ask you for your topic at the beginning of week 2.

I recommend that two of your readings are from Blackboard (the issues will have postings upon class vote) and various insights from those readings we are covering at that time in your textbook. Newspaper articles and interviews, etc. will be given extra credit points.
Part of your grade will also be based on class activity with others, so attendance is crucial and an absence will greatly reduce your ability to receive an “A” grade. If you are unable to attend any of these debates, you must write an additional paper which provides a careful outline of your position via the debate requirements listed below. However, THE FINAL DEBATE (EXAM WEEK) IS MANDATORY. (NOTE: A FILM may be shown for one or more of these debates as a point of departure for discussion).

The Debate Requirements

1. You must provide detailed copious notes on your philosophical position via the readings for that particular unit. For each debate, three readings thinkers must be represented in these notes (no repetitions please), and I expect at least 5 quotes attached from each thinker.

2. Also, you must provide an abstract stating and defending your position. It should be no more than two pages typed and should outline your position through the philosophers you have chosen to write your notes on. As you write this abstract, please include three quotes each in your notes for each philosopher. These quotes should give evidence of support your position. Finally, provide a specific personal “applied” example from your reading, the film, lecture, or personal experience which helps substantiate your stance.

3. The Teaching Reading

Pick any category as prescribed in your syllabus at the end of your semester (Asian, Feminism, Post-Modern etc.) and be prepared to “teach” parts of the topic -- say two thinkers to compare/contrast --) to our in your own way. It may well be that you are also working with someone else but I expect your individual preparation, whether it is a lesson plan, notes, and any strategy (including audio-visuals, etc.) that you wish to use to be handed in. What cannot be covered in class due to time restrictions should be handed in in a bound folder of some sort for proper grading. Enjoy! (20%).

Miscellaneous:

Attendance: Class attendance and prepared participation is expected so that the developed class community personality can proceed accordingly. I shall try to my utmost ability not to bore you, but rather energize you by way of various audio-visual technology. As part of your journal could be based on class activities, I expect regular attendance by you. If you miss more than 6 classes, I reserve the right to drop your final grade.

Due Dates for Class Assignments: All due dates are listed on your syllabus. Nevertheless, you have a voice and the class may ask for a one day extension if needed. If you miss the agreed upon class requirements days, these must be made up in some fashion within one week.

Class Etiquette (Ethics): You are expected to be responsible in your language and behavior in this course. Freedom of speech and activity here require to rational rules of respect, honesty, fair play, safety and open-minded speculation and argumentation. Any inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and will be dealt with through the appropriate CLC channels. In addition, text messaging will be discouraged and cell phone use must be
performed outside the classroom. Computers, while allowed for scholarly use, are deemed “public” for viewing by myself and your peers.

Tentative Course Schedule

WEEK 1 – August 22-24

General Introduction with Terms and Tasks
Assignment: Buy Book and start reading Introduction and Selected Handouts (SH); Start reading Introduction, Socrates

WEEKS 2 AND 3 – August 29 – 31, September 7

2 Ancient (Plato and Aristotle)
Assignment: Choose Debate Topic #1;
Read Plato, Epicurus, Epictetus and SH and SR if any

3 Hellenistic (Epicurus and Epictetus)
Assignment: Finish all of The Ancients in the European Traditions

WEEK 4 - September 12 -14

Journal Entries on Ancient World and Ethics Dilemma topic due.

DEBATE 1

4 Medieval Religious Philosophy (one day only)
Assignment: Read all of Medieval Section under The European Traditions and SR and SH if any

WEEK 5 – September 19 - 21

5 The Enlightenment: Hume and Kant
Assignment: Read all of Modern Section under the European Traditions and SH and SR if any

WEEK 6 – September 26 – 28

6 The 19th Century Mill and Marx
Assignment: Choose Debate Topic #2;
Read pp. 87-93 and 104 -112 and SR and SH if any

Journal Entries on Medieval and Modern Sections due

WEEKS 7 and 8 October 3 - 5, 10 – 12
DEBATE 2

7 The 19th Century: Kierkegaard and Nietzsche
Assignment: Read pp. 93-104, 112-120

8 The 20th Century – Existentialism and Phenomenology (select)

Journal Entries on 19th and 20th Century Existentialism is due

WEEKS 9 and 10 – October 17 - 19, 24 –26

9 The 20th Century: Rawls and MacIntyre
Assignment: Choose Debate #3 Topic;
Read pp. 148-155 and pp. 161-167 and SH and SR if any

10 Asia - Buddhism
CLASS TEACHINGS ON THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Journal Entries on Twentieth Century Ethics is due

DEBATE 3

WEEKS 11 AND 12 – October 31 - November 2; 7 - 9

11 Taoism
Assignment: Read pp. 169-174, pp. 192-197

12 Choose Debate #4 Topic;
Confucianism and Neo-Confucianism and Maoism
Assignment:
Read pp. 187-192, pp. 192-197 and SH
CLASS TEACHINGS ON ASIAN PHILOSOPHERS
Journal Entries on BTC due

WEEKS 12 AND 13 – November 14-16; 21

13 Feminist Philosophy (select) (Class selections)
Assignment: read pp. 299-329
CLASS TEACHINGS ON FEMINIST THEORY
DEBATE 4

WEEKS 14 AND 15 – November 28 – 30; December 5 - 7

14 Feminism/Contemporary Post-Modern Ethics (select)
Assignment: Choose Debate topic #5;
Read pp. 329-349 and TBA under class choices

CLASS TEACHINGS ON POST-MODERN ETHICISTS

Film (TBA pending Ethical Issue Chosen by Class); Develop Debate Preparation

15 Contemporary Post-Modern (select)
Assignment: TBA

CLASS TEACHINGS ON POST-MODERN ETHICISTS

WEEK 16 – FINAL EXAM WEEK DEBATE 5

Week of December 12-15

Assignment: Prepare and Develop Debate Platform with other class members; Mandatory Attendance (TBA)