

*“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”  
- Aristotle*

## • Philosophy 310 – Ethics

Semester: **Fall 2023, Full-Term Course**

Course Format: **Online Asynchronous (See course outline details below and in introductory lecture/video)**

General Education: **AA/AS Area I; CSU Area C2; Cal-GETC Area 3B (effective Fall 2025); IGETC Area 3B; Transferable to CSU/UC**

Prerequisite: **None**

## • Instructor Info

**Instructor: J. P. Carboni**

E-mail: [carbonj@crc.losrios.edu](mailto:carbonj@crc.losrios.edu) (See email section below for details)

Mailbox: N/A – Email documents as needed

Office Hours: *Zoom – Tuesday 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – See Zoom Link in CANVAS MODULES*

Department/Division *Details including faculty links, course links, etc:*

<https://crc.losrios.edu/academics/programs-and-majors/philosophy>

## • Important Dates

- Courses Start: 8/19
- First Course Date: 8/23
- 9/1: Last day to drop classes and qualify for tuition refund
- 9/3: Last day to drop classes with no notion on record
- 9/3: Last day to enroll in classes
- 11/14: Last day to withdraw from a course with a “W” on record
- 12/8-14: Final Exam Period (NOTE: Our exam will be held the final week of classes)
- 1/2: Final Grades Due (Our grades will be submitted on or before that day)

## • No Classes Held

- Sept 4<sup>th</sup> – Labor Day Holiday
- November 10 - Veteran’s Day
- Thanksgiving Break: 11/23 – 11/26 (Thursday & Friday)
- December 15<sup>th</sup> – January 1<sup>st</sup>: Winter Recess

## • Course Description

**Course Catalogue:** “The application of theories developed by traditional and contemporary moral philosophy to the ethical problems, dilemmas, and issues of today.”

**My Course Breakdown:** Ethics is the study of right and wrong. However, it is more than what this overly simplistic statement says. **Ethics, and the study of ethics, concerns looking at how we act, why we act the way we do, and how we can and do justify the way we act.** In this course we will discuss various traditional/historical ethical theories that have had an impact on the way in which we answer the questions above. However, while traditionally the philosopher has been stereotyped as being the “arm chair quarterback” or “backseat driver” of the moral realm, usually alongside a large wing-backed armchair and a pipe of some type, **ethical understanding is about doing.** Thus, in addition to the above discussions/lectures, we will be engaging in ethical analysis of contemporary practical and social

issues like abortion, personhood and human rights, environmentalism, equality, as well as other relevant topics. We will also read and discuss theories of the self, freedom, the relationship between religion and morality, justice as it relates to the state, ethical relativism, the nature and importance/relevance of our opinions, etc. and review how our understanding of these concepts/issues has an impact on our moral lives.

### • **Required Textbook**

*There is no required textbook for this course. All readings will be made available to you in the following ways:*

- 1) Posted to Canvas in the **Course Readings Module** (most will be this)
- 2) Submitted to the reserve desk in the library (these readings can be checked out for a period of time in order to make copies)

Please Note: All course readings posted to CANVAS/Modules/Course Readings and will appear by week in the order listed in the weekly breakdown. Assigned readings will be listed by the specific Article Title and/or author's name provided in the weekly breakdown. *The weekly breakdown is the final section of this course syllabus.*

### • **Learning Outcomes**

#### **(1) Institutional Learning Outcomes**

**Students who successfully complete an associate degree or transfer program at Cosumnes River College will achieve the following Institutional Learning Outcomes through a depth of study within the chosen discipline and the appropriate general education course pattern. Students completing a certificate or other educational goal will complete an applicable set of these Institutional Learning Outcomes.**

#### **ILO 1: Relevant Knowledge, Quantitative Reasoning, and Critical Habits of Mind**

- Solve complex problems
- Conduct basic research: collect, evaluate, and analyze relevant facts and information
- Apply mathematical skills, including algebra, to problem solve for both occupational and personal purposes
- Employ qualitative evaluation measures
- Examine, reflect upon, and evaluate one's own thinking
- Adapt to new circumstances, challenges, and pursuits

#### **ILO 2: Effective Communication in Professional and Personal Situations**

- Utilize principles of critical thinking and logic to inform, persuade, or otherwise participate in discourse
- Write and verbally communicate in a clear, well-organized manner appropriate to the purpose, audience, and setting
- Demonstrate analytical and discerning listening and reading practices
- Employ graphic, creative, aesthetic, or non-verbal forms of expression

#### **ILO 3: Adaptability**

- Incorporate what is learned to make positive personal and professional changes
- Use technology effectively for career, information, academic, and personal purposes
- Demonstrate ability to update skills to accommodate rapid change in society's technological landscape

#### **ILO 4: Cultural Understanding, Social Justice, and Equity**

- Appreciate artistic expression, aesthetics, languages, and traditions across cultures
- Participate in society with respect, empathy, and appreciation for human diversity
- Be mindful of divergent perspectives accompanied by awareness of personal prejudices and biases when considering issues
- Demonstrate empathy, civility, and equitable conflict resolution

### **ILO 5: Competence in Social Responsibility and Sustainability**

- Recognize the individual's responsibility in local, national, and global matters
- Address, through ethical reasoning, issues of social, political, and environmental well-being in the workplace, the greater community, the government, and the world

### **ILO 6: Creativity**

- Employ inspiration and imagination in synthesizing existing ideas and material to generate original work such as novel solutions to problems, alternatives to traditional practices, and other innovations
- Extend or challenge current understanding or expression through experimentation and divergent thinking
- Exhibit persistence until efforts lead to a successful outcome

### **(2) Philosophy 310 Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- **SLO #1:** identify important questions and conceptions within Ethics, distinguish from among divergent interpretations those that are better supported and those that are less well supported, construct well supported interpretations of diverse viewpoints and reason well about written and oral discourse.
  - **Objective 1a:** evaluate information concerning central issues within Ethics for quality, validity and bias to determine if it is objective and reliable.
  - **Objective 1b:** evaluate the relationship of language to logic and analyze, criticize and rationally justify points of view concerning ethical issues.
- **SLO #2:** reason inductively and deductively concerning ethical issues, reach conclusions about ethical issues based on sound or cogent inferences drawn from unambiguous statements of knowledge of belief.
  - **Objective 2a:** distinguish fact from non-factual judgment concerning ethical issues, belief from knowledge and fallacious reasoning from correct (invalid or weak) reasoning concerning ethical issues.
  - **Objective 2b:** apply ethical reasoning skills to ethical issues and work toward a personal resolution of ethical issues.
- **SLO #3 (PSLO #3):** demonstrate the ability to engage unethical reasoning necessary to exercise responsibility as an ethical individual, professional, local, and global citizen.
  - **Objective 3a:** show an appreciation of ethical principles as applied to personal and civic choices.

### **• University Student Standards of Conduct**

Students are expected to adhere to the College's Honor Code as outlined on the following page link:

<https://crc.losrios.edu/about-us/our-values/student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-standards-of-conduct>

**In addition, all students must adhere to Administrative Regulation R-2441 which outlines all standards of conduct:** <https://crc.losrios.edu/shared/doc/board/regulations/R-2441.pdf>

Lastly, to add/Fill-In the above, I expect all students to uphold standard Academic Integrity guidelines according to the following: “Adherence to standards of honesty and integrity precludes engaging in, causing, or knowingly benefiting from any violation of academic integrity. Without regard to purpose, the following violations are prohibited:”

- Cheating
- Plagiarism
- False Citations
- Submitting the Same Work for Multiple Assignments
- Submitting False Data
- Falsifying Academic Documentation
- Abuse of Library Privileges
- Abuse of Shared Electronic Media

All violations of the above Academic Integrity Policies will result in an automatic failing grade on any assignment associated with the violation and the violation will be reported to the Philosophy Department Chair, the Division Dean, and the college’s Disciplinary Officer.

### • **Course Standards of Conduct**

In addition to the above university wide requirements (and in some cases expanding on such requirements) there are several requirements *specific to this course* that all students will be required to adhere to:

- ***In-Class Participation:*** Purposely “obstructing” the view point of another student in the classroom or online during classroom/online discussions is prohibited. This class will involve many lectures/discussions/assignments concerning the material assigned for homework and the material presented during the classroom lectures. This being an ethics course, many of these discussions will challenge certain beliefs that you hold. Open dialog and proper methods of argumentation (which will be addressed in class during the course of the lectures) are not only expected but required for this class.

- ***Attendance/Participation:*** As this is an online, asynchronous course, there will be no specific class sessions that students will be required to attend *in-person*. However, students are expected to complete all the necessary work and to complete/watch all posted lectures within the timeframe to be outlined below. In addition, students are expected to have completed the readings, complete any and all required in-class work, and to participate in all required discussions.

- ***Email Correspondence:*** Monday through Friday I check my email account a *minimum* of once a day (evening/night). **To ensure a prompt reply**, all emails should be structured according to the following guidelines:

(A) ANY and ALL emails must include (**each time you send an email**) each of the following:

- 1) Your name
- 2) Your class
- 3) Your issue, the problem, or the question in a succinct claim/statement.

(B) Please be specific, brief, and direct in all communication. Brevity is a good thing! Also note, if a response requires more than a few sentences, you may be asked to attend one of my Zoom office hours sessions.

## • Disability Accommodations:

If you have a disability and require accommodations, you will need to provide disability documentation to the Disability and Support Services Department in Business and Social Science, BS104. General information, including the specific eligibility process, appointment links, and/or and documentation guidelines, can be found at the following link: [https://crc.losrios.edu/student-resources/disability-support-programs-and-services-\(dsps\)](https://crc.losrios.edu/student-resources/disability-support-programs-and-services-(dsps)).

Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours *before* the end of the third week of the semester.

**Special Note:** All instructors employed by the Consumnes River College are ‘mandatory reporters’ of suspected child abuse or neglect according to the *California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act*. As such, I am bound to the requirements established by the Department of Education, Consumnes River College and the Los Rios Community College District. If you wish to know more about this, please see the following link: <https://employees.losrios.edu/training/compliance-and-safety/child-abuse-reporting>

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## • Course Structure (Important)

As listed in the weekly breakdown below, while this is an Asynchronous Online course, I follow the normal weekly structure set by CRC and Los Rios and break down the Semester into a standard 16-week course structure. Each Friday during the semester I will make available the following items:

- 1) All the lectures that you must complete for the following week.
  - These can be either a recorded lecture where I discuss the subject matter addressed in the readings due that week or a link to an external video file that I ask you to watch.
- 2) Any and all quizzes due for the week in question (see quizzes section below for all dates).
- 3) Any and all discussion posts that you are required to complete for the week (see section on Discussion Posts below for more detail).
- 4) Any and all PowerPoints that I use during the course of my lectures for the week.
- 5) Any and all handouts that I may provide for a given subject/topic.

As an example- as this may be confusing – on Friday 8/25 (end of Week 1) I will post all content for Week 2 (8/28 – 9/1).

- This will include (1) Two lectures that you must complete/watch and (2) Reading Quiz 1 and Reading Quiz 2 (see details on reading quizzes below). Once posted, all materials will be available to complete until 12/1, BUT I strongly recommend that you complete all quizzes on a weekly basis according to the standard weekly schedule as outlined by Los Rios.

**PLEASE NOTE:** I will not make available the entire course at once.

- You will be required to complete the work at your own pace and on your own time frame each Week. I recommend that you follow along according to a standard weekly schedule. Once materials have been posted, they will be available until 12/1\*. Once a week has been made available, I will send an announcement to the class. Be sure that you regularly check your CRC email, as all communications from me will filter through that email platform.

\* The 12/1 date DOES NOT APPLY to each of the following:

- 1) Essay Assignments
- 2) Examinations

- Each of these assignments MUST be completed/turned in according to the details outlined on the Essay Prompts and/or Study Guides.

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## • Evaluation/Homework Assignments

- **Quizzes:** As outlined on the weekly course breakdown below, there will be two types of quizzes in this class: Reading Quizzes and Lecture Quizzes.
  - (1) **Reading Quizzes:** **These quizzes must be completed in CANVAS.** All reading quizzes will be based on a specific reading that has been assigned and those specific readings are outlined in the weekly breakdown below. **NOTE: No make-ups will be given for failing to complete a quiz.** These quizzes will be multiple choice and/or true and false. **Each quiz will be worth 10 points.** Once you begin a quiz, you will have 20 minutes to complete it. **Once you answer a question, you WILL NOT be able to go back and change your answer. You are only allowed one attempt for each quiz (unless otherwise noted during the class). Once posted, Reading Quizzes will be available until 12/1.**
  - (2) **Lecture Quizzes:** At the end of each *week*, students will be required to complete a short quiz on the lecture materials provided that week. **These quizzes will be made available each Friday, and, once posted, they will remain available until 12/1.** These quizzes will be multiple choice and/or true and false. **Each quiz will be worth 10 points.** Once you begin a quiz, you will have 20 minutes to complete it. **Once you answer a question, you WILL NOT be able to go back and change your answer. You are only allowed one attempt for each quiz.**

### Additional IMPORTANT Quiz Notes:

- 1) There will be no make-up quizzes if you fail to complete a quiz before 12/1 (any type). **Please do not ask! There are lots of them, so doing poorly on one or two will have little impact on your final grade (just don't make it a habit...).** **There will be no general announcement about the quizzes posted each week. Therefore, it is your responsibility to check the weekly schedule (see below) and to complete work in a timely fashion.**
  - 2) To do well on these quizzes and thus to do well in the class, you should make sure to complete the assigned readings and to watch/take notes on all the required content provided each week.
  - 3) The quiz breakdown can be a little confusing at first. **Thus, if you are confused in any way about the detailed quiz schedule, it is your responsibility to come and speak to me during my office hours**
  - 4) If you have any issues during the quiz (like, for example, a system freeze) please email me and I will resolve the issue.
  - 5) **LASTLY: At the end of the term, I will drop the lowest score on each type of quiz**
- **Discussion Posts:** Each week, unless otherwise noted in the weekly schedule, you will be required to complete two short discussion post assignments (all the more reason to keep up with the weekly schedule I set up).
    - **(1) The first will be to answer a question that I ask in the assignment link. Your answers to these questions should be one or two sentences.**
    - **(2) The second will be to respond to the answer given by one of your fellow classmates.**

Note: Your answers and your responses should be written keeping in mind that others will be reading them – meaning – keep them clean and fair! These are not Redditt Posts. Be nice to one another. I will be reviewing each of your posts as well throughout the semester.

**These will be graded as a complete/incomplete and can be answered in 1 or 2 complete sentences. Each Discussion Post assignment will be worth 5 total points.**

- **Writing Assignments:** There will be two, short writing assignments in this class. For each assignment, you will be provided with assignment topics, structural details, and a grading rubric. Assignments must be submitted to CANVAS **no later than the date provided on the prompt. Late essays will be docked 5 points for every day that they are late.**

### Prompt Provided

- Essay #1: 9/15
- Essay #2: 11/10

### Essay Due

- Essay #1: 9/29
- Essay #2: 11/24

- **Examinations:** There will be two examinations in this class (a midterm and a final exam). Both exams will be taken in CANVAS and once assigned, you will have **two hours** to complete the examination. All exams will include multiple choice, true or false, fill in the blank and, potentially, short answer type questions. There will be no make-ups on exams except with “extraordinary” circumstances, so schedule outside activities accordingly. **Note:** Extraordinary circumstances do not include *personal* athletic activities, vacations, car not starting, not feeling like it, etc. **A doctor’s note (or something similar) will be required to schedule a make-up exam.** Students will be required to complete the exams as scheduled below:

- **Midterm Exam:** **Week 9 (You will be given a three-day window to complete the Exam from Wednesday 8:00 AM until Friday 11:59 PM)**
- **Final Exam:** **Week 16 (You will be given a three-day window to complete the exam from Wednesday 8:00 AM until Friday 11:59 PM)**

### • Grading Scale

All essays will be graded based upon an 80-point scale according to the following breakdown:

A Outstanding (75 - 80 pts)	A- Very Good (72 - 74 pts)
B+ Above Satisfactory (68.5 - 71 pts)	B Satisfactory (67 - 68 pts)
B- Below Satisfactory (64 - 67 pts)	C+ Above Average (61 - 63 pts)
C Average (58 - 60 pts)	C- Below Average (56 - 57 pts)
D+ Poor High (53 - 55.5 pts)	D Poor Low (48 - 52 pts)
F Unacceptable (47 and lower pts)	

All exams will be graded based upon a 100-point scale according to the following breakdown:

A Outstanding (92 - 100 pts)	A- Very Good (90 - 92 pts)
B+ Above Satisfactory (86 - 99 pts)	B Satisfactory (83 - 85 pts)
B- Below Satisfactory (80 - 82 pts)	C+ Above Average (76 - 79 pts)
C Average (73 - 75 pts)	C- Below Average (69 - 72 pts)
D+ Poor High (65 - 68 pts)	D Poor Low (60 - 64 pts)
F Unacceptable (59 and lower pts)	

### • Total Points Breakdown

- **Quizzes:**
  - 1) **Reading (19 x 10) 190 Points (180 after dropped quiz)**
  - 2) **Lecture (12 x 10) 120 Points (110 after dropped quiz)**
- **Essay #1: 80 possible pts**
- **Essay #2: 80 possible pts**
- **Examinations: 200 possible pts**
- **Discussion Posts 65 (13 x 5 pts)**

**Total Points Possible: 735 Total Points Possible** (Note that this number may change based on the number of in-class assignments given. However, it will NOT exceed 735 total points.)

• **Detailed Weekly Reading/Assignment Schedule:** Topics to be covered and assignments due for each class period are listed as *Lecture 1* and *Lecture 2* for each week.

**Further Notes About Quizzes:**

(1) All **Reading Quizzes** will be posted to Canvas/Modules/Reading Quizzes and must be completed before December 12/1 (I strongly recommend that you complete all quizzes on a weekly basis once posted)

(2) All **Lecture Quizzes** will be posted to Canvas/Modules/Lecture Quizzes and must be completed before 12/1 (I strongly recommend that you complete all quizzes on a weekly basis once posted)

## WEEKLY BREAKDOWN BELOW



## Weekly Breakdown:

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### PART I: What is Ethics and is Absolutism, Absolutely Wrong?

#### Week 1: (8/21 – 8/25) – Materials Available on 8/19

Topics: *Course Breakdown and How We Should Feel About Our Opinions*

**Lecture 1:** Course breakdown and Introduction to the Study of Philosophy

- **Readings/Videos to Complete:**
  - **(1) Lecture Video #1: Course Introduction Lecture**
  - **(2) Crash Course Philosophy: What is Philosophy (Video)**
  - **(3) What is Moral Philosophy (Video)**
  - **(4) Crash Course Philosophy: How to Argue (Video)**

**Lecture 2:** We All Have Opinions

- **Readings/Videos to Complete:**
  - (1) *Do You Have an Opinion about Opinions?*
- **PLEASE COMPLETE Before Watching Lecture: Discussion Post #1 Due Reading Quiz #1 - NOTE: This Quiz CAN Be Taken After the Lecture Has Been Viewed. All Future Reading Quizzes Must Be Completed Prior To The Lecture**
- **Lecture Video #2: Do We Have A Right To Our Opinions? (Watch and then take Reading Quiz #1)**

• **Lecture Quiz Available 8/25: Lecture Quiz #1**

• **Discussion Post #1 Due by 11:59 PM on 8/25 (see above)**

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#### Week 2: (8/28 – 9/1)

Topic: *Who Are We to Say Who is Right and Who is Wrong, Right?*

**Lecture 1:** *Problem with Ethics #1*

- **Readings/Videos to Complete:**
    - (1) *The Challenge of Cultural Relativism* by James Rachels
    - (2) *The Maze of Moral Relativism* by Paul Boghossian
    - (3) *Herodotus: The Histories - Only Book III, Section 38 (Only One Paragraph)*
- DUE: Reading Quiz #2 – Must complete before watching lecture**
- **Lecture Video #3: What is relativism, why is it so powerful, and is it wrong?**

**Lecture 2:** *Problem with Ethics #2 - Stealing from David Hume*

- **Reading to Complete:**
    - **(1) The Nature of Ethical Disagreement** by Charles L. Stevenson
- DUE: Reading Quiz #3 – Must complete before watching lecture**
- **Lecture Video #4: Ethical Subjectivism and Emotivism**

- **Lecture Quiz Available 9/1: Lecture Quiz #2**
  - **Discussion Post #2 Due by 11:59 PM on 9/1**
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**Week 3: (9/4 – 9/8)**

Topics: *A Response to the Naturalistic Fallacy and Said Almost Everyone Always, “Look after yourself ... first and foremost!”*

**Lecture 1:** A Response to Hume and Stevenson

- **Reading to Complete:**
  - (1) *Can Science Tell Us What’s Right and Wrong?* by Dewitt**DUE: Reading Quiz #4 – Must complete before watching lecture**
- **Lecture Video #5: Science and Right and Wrong – One Possible Answer to Stevenson**

**Lecture 2:** *Problem with Ethics #3 - Do We Have Any Natural Rights?*

- **Reading to Complete**
  - (1) *The Social Contract* by Thomas Hobbes**DUE: Reading Quiz #5 – Must complete before watching lecture**
- **Lecture Video #6: Psychological Egoism**

- **Lecture Quiz Available 9/8: Lecture Quiz #3**
  - **Discussion Post #3 Due by 11:59 PM on 9/8**
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**Week 4: (9/11 – 9/15)**

Topic: *Why Thinking About Others is Ignorant and Why Thinking About Others is Rational?*

**Lecture 1:** An Objectivist Ethics

- Reading to Complete
  - (1) *A Defense of Ethical Egoism* by Ayn Rand**DUE: Reading Quiz #6 & 7 (one quiz) – Must complete before watching lecture**
- **Lecture Video #7: Ethical Egoism**

**Lecture 2:** *Why Ayn Rand is Wrong – Rand and the Prisoner’s Dilemma*

- **No New Reading Due**
- **Lecture Video #8: The Prisoner’s Dilemma Revisited**

- **Lecture Quiz Available 9/15: Lecture Quiz #4**
  - **Essay Prompt #1 Available 9/15**
  - **Discussion Post #4 Due by 11:59 PM on 9/15**
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**PART II - Normative Ethics: The Big Three ... Well, Really Four**

## Week 5: (9/18 – 9/22)

Topic: One of Three – Can Utilitarianism Can Tell Us What To Do?

### Lecture 1: Utilitarianism

- Reading to Complete
  - (1) *Utilitarianism* by John Stuart Mill (Chapter 14)  
***DUE: Reading Quiz #8 – Must complete before watching lecture***
- ***Lecture Video #9: Utilitarianism Explained***

### Lecture 2: We Most Certainly Like Part of It ... But What If It's Wrong?

- Reading to Complete:
  - Strengths and Weaknesses of Utilitarianism by Louis P. Pojman  
***DUE: Reading Quiz #9 – Must complete before watching lecture***
- ***Lecture Video #10: Is Utilitarianism Flawed?***

• **Lecture Quiz Available 9/22: Lecture Quiz #5**

• **Discussion Post #5 Due by 11:59 PM on 9/22**

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## Week 6: (9/25 - 9/29)

Topic: Two and Three of Three: Believe it or not, Immanuel Kant was a Stand-Up Comedian But Aristotle Never Got a Laugh

### Lecture 1: It's Not Actually You ... Reading Kant is Just Hard (or ... the Nature of Deontic Ethics)

- Reading to Complete:
  - *The Categorical Imperative* by Immanuel Kant  
***DUE: Reading Quiz #10 – Must complete before watching lecture***
- ***Lecture Video #11: Deontic Ethics***

### Lecture 2: Okay, Fine, Aristotle Not Much Easier (or ... It's All About Virtue and Vice)

- Reading to Complete:
  - (1) *The Nature of Virtue* by Aristotle
  - (2) *Chinese Ethics (Read Sections II/2.1)*:  
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-chinese/#VirEthDaoJunRen>
  - (3) *Martha Nussbaum: What Appeals to Her About Virtue Ethics (Short Video)* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iuoZGx88FT8>  
***DUE: Reading Quiz #11 – Must complete before watching lecture***
- ***Lecture Video #12: Aristotle's Virtue Ethics***

• **Lecture Quiz Available 9/29: Lecture Quiz #7**

• **Due 9/29: Essay #1 (Please follow all submission instructions on the prompt)**

• **Midterm Exam Prompt Provided (See Examinations Module in Canvas)**

• **Discussion Post #6 Due by 11:59 PM on 9/29**

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## Week 7: (10/2 - 10/6)

Topic: Three of Three Continued and Four of, Well, Four of Three? Maybe We Need a Whole New Way To Think About Ethics ...! & What about God?

### Lecture 1: A Feminist Approach

- Reading to Complete:
  - (1) *The Ethics of Care* by Virginia Held  
**DUE: Reading Quiz #12 – Must complete before watching lecture**
- **Lecture Video #13: Care Ethics**

### Lecture 2: Wait, One More Problem with Ethics ... Can We Have a Secular Ethics?

- Readings to Complete:
  - (1) *The Euthyphro*: Please read <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/euthyphro.html>
  - (2) *God and Morality* by Steven M. Cahn  
**DUE: Reading Quiz #13 – Must complete before watching lecture**
- **Lecture Video #14: The Euthyphro Problem**

• **Lecture Quiz Available 10/6: Lecture Quiz #8**

• **Discussion Post #7 Due by 11:59 PM on 10/6**

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## Week 8: (10/9 - 10/13)

Topic: Is all this just absurd?

### Lecture 1: Albert Camus once said, “The only important philosophical question is why we don’t all kill ourselves” ... but he smoked a lot of cigarettes! → A Small Ethical /Philosophical Interlude

- Reading to Complete:
  - *Why Life is Absurd* by Rivka Weinberg  
**DUE: Reading Quiz #14 – Must complete before watching lecture**
- **Lecture Video #15: Albert Camus and the Absurd**

### Lecture 2: Okay ... A Runaway Trolley Car and a Track Worker Walk into a Bar ... Facing Moral Decision Making! A Philosophical Interlude

- Reading to Complete:
  - *The Trolley Problem* by Judith Jarvis Thomson
  - **No Reading Quiz Due**
- **Lecture Video/Recording/Podcast #16: The Trolley Problem and Ethical Decision Making**

• **Lecture Quiz Available: No Lecture Quiz Posted Week 8**

• **Discussion Post #8 Due by 11:59 PM on 10/13**

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## Week 9: (10/16 - 10/20) – Midterm Week

**Lecture 1: Midterm Review Period (See Midterm Study Guide for Class Details)**

**Day 2:** Midterm Exam (Complete as Instructed on the Midterm Study Guide – No Lecture 2 Week 9)

**No Reading Quizzes Posted Week 9**  
**No Lecture Quiz Posted Week 9**  
**No Discussion Post Posted Week 9**

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**Part III: Applied Ethics – Can We Apply All the Above to Our Actual, Daily Existence or is it All Just Theoretical?**

**Week 10: (10/23 - 10/27)**

Topic: Starting with An Uncontroversial Topic ... Oh, Wait ... What is Justice?

**Lecture 1:** A Basic Theory of Justice

- Reading to Complete:
  - *A Theory of Justice* by John Rawls  
**DUE: Reading Quiz #15 – Must complete before watching lecture**
- **Lecture Video #17: The Veil of Ignorance**

**Lecture 2:** The Other Side

- Reading to Complete:
  - Entitlement Theory by Robert Nozick  
**No Reading Quiz to Complete**
- **Lecture Video #18: Entitlement Theory**

• **Lecture Quiz Available 10/27: Lecture Quiz #9**

• **Discussion Post #9 Due by 11:59 PM on 10/27**

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**Week 11: (10/30 – 11/3)**

Topic: *Yet Another Uncontroversial Subject* → Abortion

**Lecture 1:** Let's Start with Defining the Importance of Personhood First

- Reading to Complete:
  - (1) *On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion* by Mary Anne Warren  
**No Reading Quiz to Complete**
- **Lecture Video #19: Personhood and Abortion**

**Lecture 2:** Does X Being a Person Now Even Matter?

- Reading to Complete:
  - (1) *Why Abortion is Immoral* by Don Marquis  
**DUE: Reading Quiz #16 – Must complete before watching lecture**
- **Lecture Video #20: Why Personhood Not the Point**

• **Lecture Quiz Available 11/3: Lecture Quiz #10**

• **Discussion Post #10 Due by 11:59 PM on 11/3**

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## Week 12: (11/6 – 11/10)

Topic: Revisiting Ayn Randian Ethics – What Is Our Moral Responsibility to the Other?

**Lecture 1:** What if people on the other side of the world are starving? & Can Singer *Talk the Talk and Walk the Walk – Does that Actually Matter?*

- Reading to Complete:
  - (1) *Famine, Affluence, and Morality* by Peter Singer
  - (2) *A Reply to Singer* by Travis Timmerman**DUE: Reading Quiz #17 – Must complete before watching lecture**
- **Lecture Video #21: Our Moral Obligation to Help the Other**

**Lecture 2:** Are We Killing Ourselves and How Do We Stop

- Reading to Complete:
  - (1) *Should This be the Last Generation* by Peter Singer
  - (2) *The Ethics of Climate Change* by John Broome**No Reading Quiz Due**
- **Lecture Video #22: Rethinking the Environmental Debate – The Economic Model**

• **Lecture Quiz Available 11/10: Lecture Quiz #11**

• **Essay #2 Prompt Available 11/10**

• **Discussion Post #11 Due by 11:59 PM on 11/10**

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## Week 13: (11/13 – 11/17)

Topic: Does Any Of This Relate to Gender and Racial Equality?

**Lecture 1:** What's *Hermeneutical Injustice*

- Listen to the following: <https://player.fm/series/examining-ethics/ep-28-philosophy-and-metoo-with-emily-mcwilliams>
- **DUE: Reading Quiz #18 – Must complete before watching lecture**
- **Lecture Video #23: Hermeneutical Injustice**

**Lecture 2:** Race Matters – Lecture by Cornell West

- **No Reading Quiz Due**
- **Lecture Video #24: Watch Video Lecture by Cornell West**

• **Lecture Quiz Available 11/17: Lecture Quiz #12**

• **Discussion Post #12 Due by 11:59 PM on 11/17**

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## Week 14: (11/20 – 11/24)

Topic: Should Immigration Be Restricted?

**Lecture 1:** *Immigration*

- Readings to Complete:
  - (1) *Immigration: The Case for Limits* by David Miller
  - (2) *Is There a Right to Immigrate?* by Michael Huemer

***DUE: Reading Quiz #19 – Must complete before watching lecture***

- ***Lecture Video #25: The Immigration Debate – Two Views***

**NOTE: Thanksgiving Break: Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> – No Second Lecture Posted This Week**

- **Lecture Quiz Available: No Lecture Quiz Posted Week 14**
  - **Due 11/24: Essay #2 (Please follow all submission instructions on the prompt)**
  - **Provided 11/24: Final Exam Study Guide**
  - **Discussion Post: No Discussion Post Week 14**
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**Week 15: (11/27 – 12/1)**

Topic: The Meaning of Life?

**Lecture 2:** *How Can We Live Meaningful Lives?*

- **Reading to Complete:**
  - (1) *The Meaning of Life* by Richard Taylor**No Reading Quiz Due**
- **Lecture Video #26: The Meaning of Life?**

**Lecture 2:** *Final Exam Review (See “Final Exam Study Guide for Class Details)*

- **Lecture Quiz: No Lecture Quiz Given This Week**
  - **Discussion Post #13 Due by 11:59 PM on 12/1**
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**Week 16: (12/4 – 12/8)**

**Final Examination Week – See Final Exam Study Guide and Final Exam Review lecture for all exam details**

- **No Reading Quizzes Week 16**
  - **No Lecture Quizzes Week 16**
  - **No Discussion Post Week 16**
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**Note: Minor changes may be made to the syllabus as the semester progresses. Instructor will inform you if changes to the syllabus are made.**

**Welcome to Phil 310!**

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