

**Introduction to Ethics – 16002- PHIL 010 - 01**  
**MTWRF 8:30 – 10:30 am**  
**Summer Pre-session 2019**  
**Walsh 491**

Instructor: Dr. Paul Cudney  
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New North 218  
Office Hours: MW 10:30 – 11:30

**Course description**

In this course we will consider a selection of classic and contemporary ethical issues. We will consider a selection of meta-ethical views, such as moral relativism and divine command theory. Then we will evaluate the most popular normative ethical theories, such as utilitarianism, Kantianism, intuitionism, social contract theory, virtue ethics, and feminist ethics. We will also discuss some applied ethical issues, such as giving to charity and physician assisted suicide. The bulk of the readings will come from Julia Driver's book *Ethics: The Fundamentals*. However, these readings will be supplemented with original texts by classic authors such as John Stuart Mill and W. D. Ross, and contemporary authors such as Christine Korsgaard and Georgetown's own Margaret Olivia Little. Classes will consist of an equal amount of lecture and class or group discussion. Students will be graded according to two short argumentative essays, reading quizzes, and class participation. The only required text will be Driver's *Ethics: The Fundamentals*. All other readings will be posted to Canvas.

**Course Requirements**

Class Participation: 10%  
Reading Quizzes: 15%  
Two 4 page essays: 37.5% each

Each essay will consist of an overview of an issue we have read about and/or discussed in class and the defense of a position with respect to that issue. More detailed instructions about these essays will be provided the first week of class.

**Letter Grade Assignments**

A 100 – 92.5	C 76.4 – 72.5
A- 92.4 – 89.5	C- 72.4 – 69.5
B+ 89.4 – 86.5	D+ 69.4 – 66.5
B 86.4 – 82.5	D 66.4 – 62.5
B- 82.4 – 79.5	D- 62.4 – 59.5
C+ 79.4 – 76.5	F 59.4 and below

## Academic Integrity

Writing will make up a large portion of the grade in this class. You should note that plagiarism is a violation of the Georgetown University Honor System. The University defines plagiarism as “the act of passing off as one’s own the ideas or writings of another” and notes that “plagiarism can be said to have occurred without affirmative showing that a students’ use of another’s work was intentional.” (GU Honor System brochure, p. 4). Thus, plagiarism can occur either intentionally or through negligence. Be sure to cite all sources you use, and if you’re unsure whether or not to cite something either ask me or err on the side of caution.

### Reading Schedule<sup>1</sup>

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5/20/19 Introduction EF	5/21/19 Ch. 1 EF  Sturgeon “Moral Disagreement and Moral Relativism”	5/22/19 Ch. 2 EF	5/23/19 Quinn “Divine Command Theory” Campbell “A Short Refutation of Ethical Egoism”	5/24/19 Ch. 10 EP
5/27/19 Mackie “The Subjectivity of Values”  Ch. 3 EF	5/28/19 Mill Selections From <i>Utilitarianism</i>	5/29/19 Hooker Ch. 4 of <i>Ideal Code, Real World</i>  Singer “Famine, Affluence and Morality”	5/30/19 Ch. 5 EF	5/31/19 Korsgaard “Kant's Formula of Universal Law”  Ch. 6 EF  <b>Paper 1 due by Midnight.</b>
6/3/19 Milo “Contractarian Constructivism”	6/4/19 Ch. 7 EF  W.D. Ross “What Makes Right Actions Right”	6/5/19 Bambrough “Proof”  George Sher “But I Could Be Wrong”	6/6/19 Ch. 8 EF	6/7/19 McDowell “Virtue and Reason”
6/10/19 Ch. 9 EF & Little “Seeing and Caring: The Role of Affect in Feminist Moral Epistemology”	6/11/19 “Active and Passive Euthanasia” by James Rachels  Brock “Voluntary Active Euthanasia”	6/12/19 Film: The Suicide Tourist	6/13/19 Velleman “Against the Right to Die”	6/14/19 Hardwig “Is There a Duty to Die”  Paper Workshop  <b>Paper 2 due by midnight</b>

<sup>1</sup> This is subject to change per the instructor's discretion.