This course aims to introduce you to four important kinds of ethical theory: virtue ethics (via Aristotle), moral sentiment theory (via Hume), Kantianism (via Kant) and Utilitarianism (via Mill). Ethical theories of these four traditional kinds are, to this day, vying for our acceptance. The course will also explore the attack on traditional ethics made by Nietzsche, a self-proclaimed "immoralist."

**Go to Schedule**

**Texts:**

We will be using the following editions, available at the Maryland Book Exchange and the University Book Center (and just about everywhere else). Please do not use different editions.


**Requirements:**

3 take-home exams and two in-class exams.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aristotle take-home exam</td>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hume in-class exam</td>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kant take-home exam</td>
<td>November 5</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mill in-class exam</td>
<td>November 24</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nietzsche take-home exam</td>
<td>December 12</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Academic integrity:**

- The University of Maryland Honor Pledge reads: "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination." The Pledge statement should be handwritten and signed on the front of your exams. Students who fail to write and sign the Pledge will be asked to confer with the instructor.
- The Student Honor Council identifies four types of academic dishonesty: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes dishonesty of these four types. Please consult the Student Honor Council Website or speak with the instructor or teaching assistant if you would like any further clarification (e.g., on what constitutes plagiarism).
- The teaching assistant and I take incidents of academic dishonesty very seriously. We will forward to the office of judicial programs any cases of it that come to our attention.

**Discussion sections:**

- They are an integral part of this course. You are expected to attend them.
- If your teaching assistant judges that you have performed well in discussion sections and your grade is on a borderline, then your assistant may push it upward.

**In-class Exams:**

- Exams will test your comprehension of material presented in readings, lectures, and discussion sections. They will consist of essay questions chosen from among a list of questions handed out approximately 5 days in advance.
- If you have a university-approved excuse for missing an examination, you may take a make-up. However, you must alert your teaching assistant (by email or phone) that you will be absent prior to the exam, unless unusual circumstances prevent you from doing so.
Take-home exams:

- Take-home exams will be distributed approximately 5 days before exams are due.
- Unless accompanied by a university-approved excuse, exams will be penalized one full grade for each school day they are late. For example, if your paper is due on Monday, you may turn it in on Tuesday, but then the highest grade you could receive on the paper would be a B+.
- Take-home exams will not be accepted via email.

Grading:

- Your final grade will depend on the percentage you earn of the total points possible in the class: A+: 98-100; A: 94-97; A: 90-93; B+: 87-89; B: 84-86; B-: 80-83; C+: 77-79; C: 74-76; C: 70-73; D+: 67-69; D: 64-66; D: 60-63.
- There will be no opportunities for extra credit. (But recall that if your teaching assistant judges that you have performed well in discussion sections and your grade is on a borderline, then your assistant may push it upward.)
- Failure to complete an assignment will result in your receiving no points (a zero) for that assignment.

Religious Observances:

- You will not be penalized for any absence that results from religious observance.
- However, it is your responsibility to inform your teaching assistant in advance of any intended absences for religious observance. (You should notify her by September 15th.)

Students with Disabilities:

- Students with disabilities should inform the instructor and teaching assistant of their needs as soon as possible so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

Schedule:

(Readings might be altered as the course progresses. If there are any changes, they will be announced.)

Introduction

Sept. 3: Introduction

Aristotle

Sept. 8: NE Book I

Sept. 10: NE Book II
Sept. 15: NE Book III 1115a to the end of Book IV
Sept. 17: NE Book VI
Sept. 22: NE Book VII up to 1152a36
Aristotle Take-Home Exam

Hume
Sept. 24: EPM Section I (Aristotle take-home due)
Sept. 29: EPM Sections II & III
Oct. 1: EPM Sections IV & V
Oct. 6: EPM Sections VI-VIII
Oct. 8: EPM Section IX & Appendix I
Hume Exam Questions
Oct. 13: Hume in-class exam

Kant
Oct. 15: GMS, Preface
Oct. 20: GMS 393-405
"Deriving the Supreme Principle of Morality from Common Moral Ideas"
Oct. 22: GMS 406-427
Oct. 27: GMS 428-431
Oct. 29: GMS 431-445
Kant Take-Home Exam
Nov. 3: GMS 431-445

Mill
Nov. 5: U, chapter 1 (Kant take-home due)
Nov. 10: U, chapter 2
Nov. 12: U, chapter 3
Nov. 17: U, chapter 4
Nov. 19: U, chapter 5
Mill Exam Questions
Nov. 24: Mill in-class exam

Nietzsche

Nov. 26: GEN, Preface
Dec. 1: GEN, First Essay
Dec. 3: GEN, First Essay

Nietzsche Take-Home Exam
Dec. 8: GEN, Second Essay
Dec. 10: GEN, Second Essay
Dec. 12: Nietzsche take-home due

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