

Course Information Sheet for March 17-May 2

Course Description

The second part of the course will offer the following: a brief review of ethical theory in general and utilitarianism in particular. Next we will examine Kantian ethics, virtue ethics and natural law ethics in some detail. We will also provide a brief treatment of rights theory.

Required Course Text

Barbara MacKinnon (BMcK), *Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues*, 3rd ed., Wadsworth, 2001.

William Jones “Liberation Strategies in Black Theology: Mao, Martin or Malcolm?” (electronic reserve)

J. Jones, “Basic Themes in Theory of Ethics” (Class/web handout)

Selections by Aquinas on natural law and David Ozar on rights (class/web handouts)

Course Requirements

Requirements: There will be three exams for the course as a whole. The last two exams will be a mixture of short answer, definitions and short essay questions. The first exam was worth 100 points. The second exam will also be worth 100 points. The third exam (which will be cumulative for the period from March 17 to the end of the semester) will be worth 130 points. The second and third exams will be graded on a “curve” in the sense that I generally set the cutoff for a BC at the median score for an exam and adjust the other grade cutoff points with respect to the BC cutoff. The cutoffs for grade levels on the final grade are set as the sum of the cutoffs for the grade level on the individual assignments. So, if the cutoffs for an A on the exams are 95, 94 and 120 and then the cutoff for an A on the final grade is: $95+94+120 = 309$.

The exams are designed for you to show me that you have a critical and detailed understanding of the readings and of material covered in class. Some of the short answer questions will be drawn strictly from readings. However the bulk of the material on the exams will have been covered in class or in class in conjunction with readings.

Reading Schedule

M17/Week 9 (3 classes): Review of ethics/utilitarianism (J. Jones)

M24/Week 10 (3 classes): Review of ethics/utilitarianism (J. Jones); Kantian Ethics ((BMcK, 66-87)

M31/Week 11 (3 classes) Kantian Ethics (con't.)

A7/Week 11 (3 classes): **Exam – Monday, April 7.** Rules in ethics (W. Jones)
(Exam will be returned on Wed. April 9 prior to 4/11 deadline for withdrawal from classes)

A14/Week 12 (2 classes/MW): Rules in Ethics (cont.) / Virtue ethics (88-104)

Easter Break: Friday, April 17B Monday, April 21)

A21/Week 13 (2 classes/WF): virtue ethics/natural law (cont.) plus handout on Aquinas)

A27/Week 14 (3 classes): virtue ethics/natural law; rights theory (cont.) plus handout on Ozar)

Final Examination: 1005: Monday, May 5, 1–3 PM

1006: Friday, May 9, 1–3 PM

V. Some general comments:

- (A) My Office is in Coughlin Hall 132; tele. Ext. is 86857 (Phil Dept).
My E-MAIL account is john.jones@marquette.edu.
My faculty web page is web page: <http://academic.mu.edu/phil/jones/> (the web page will contain the syllabus; the review of ethics theory; review sheets for the exam, etc.)
- (B) Office hours will be MW 11-12 and M 1-2. I am available at other times during the week for appointments. If my office hours are not convenient for you, please let me know in person or by E-MAIL and we can set up an appointment.
- (C) You are expected to take exams and turn in assignments on the due dates. No makeup exams will be given except for serious reasons such as illness, a death in the family, etc.
- (D) It will be necessary for you to complete readings in a timely manner. Remember that in philosophy, we are very concerned with defining and justifying positions through careful argumentation and precise use of language. It is not enough to know just what positions people hold; you must also know why they hold those positions and how and for what reasons one position differs from others. You cannot understand this without reading the material; you will not get it if you only read the material one time (I GUARANTEE).
- (E) If your exam falls on a day when you already have two other exams scheduled, please see me to reschedule your exam if you so wish. Please! -- if there is some good reason why you cannot take an exam, such as illness, make certain to contact me BEFORE the exam is given. I CANNOT make accommodations for special situations AFTER you have taken an exam.
- (F) Attendance is required.