PHI 200 Ethics
Mondays and Wednesdays 1-2:15
Cedar Crest College
Spring 2008

Instructor:
Dr. Elizabeth M. Meade
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Text
Ethics: History, Theory and Contemporary Issues, Steven M. Cahn, Peter Markie (***Third Edition)***

Course Description:
Ethics is the study of the different ways that people have described or prescribed what people *ought* to do. The central question is whether human beings, because they are human beings, are obliged to act in certain ways. Do we have a moral obligation to respect and/or preserve human life? Do we have a moral obligation to treat ourselves and each other in a certain way? Throughout the history of humankind, different answers have been offered to the question of what we are obliged to do and why we are obliged to do it. We will look at some of these answers as we explore the question of what human beings ought to do. In the process, we will evaluate the most well-known ethical theories, and apply them to contemporary ethical problems.

Assignments

Midterm Exam	20%	Attendance	10%
Two papers	50%	Final Exam	20%

Attendance Policy
I will accept up to **two** excused absences (documented medical or athletic game) before you lose points for your absences. Otherwise, your absences will lose you points according to the following: 0 absences=100; 1 absence=96; 2 absences=92; 3 absences=88; 4 absences=84; 5 absences=80; 6 absences=76; 7 absences=72; 8 absences=68; 9 absences=64; 10 absences=60.

Grading Policy
I assign letter grades for all papers. For the purposes of calculation, my letter grades carry the following numeric values: A+=100; A=95; A-=92; B+=88; B=85; B-=82; C+=78; C=75; C-=72; D+=68; D=65; D-= 62; F=60.

Class Policies
- All work must be completed and submitted for a passing grade
- I will not provide extra credit assignments
- The penalty for plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty will range from a failing grade for the work to a failing grade for the course, depending on the severity of the offense, at my discretion
- The grade for any work submitted late will be dropped 1/3 (i.e., from B to B-) for each day it is late, unless a different arrangement is made with me prior to the due date
- I will only respond to emails sent through your Cedar Crest email account, in order to comply with federal regulations designed to protect your privacy. In addition, I will only send emails to your Cedar Crest email account
- I will accept work emailed to me, from your CCC account only and only in Word format (.doc or .docx extension). HOWEVER, I will not accept the statement that the work was emailed as an excuse for not receiving it. It is YOUR responsibility to make sure that the work is received
- Please silence your cell phones.

Learning Objectives
Students completing this course will have learned: 1) the most significant ethical theories in the Western tradition; 2) how to apply those theories to contemporary moral issues; and 3) the elements of moral reasoning (how to formulate, justify and defend a moral argument).

Honor Philosophy
This class will be conducted in complete accord with the principles of the Cedar Crest College Honor Philosophy.

Statement on Accommodations
Students with documented disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss these needs with their professors during the first two weeks of class. Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations should contact the Advising Center.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

All assignments are due on the date indicated.

Aug. 27   Introduction to Ethics

Aug. 29   Plato, pp. 5-16

Sept. 1	NO CLASS – Labor Day
Sept. 3	Plato, pp. 16-33
Sept. 8	Aristotle, pp. 124-140
Sept. 10	Aristotle, pp. 140-147
Sept. 15	Epictetus, pp.183-194
Sept. 17	Augustine, pp. 195-201
Sept. 22	Aquinas, pp. 201-211 **Paper 1 due**
Sept. 24	van den Haag, pp. 824-833 Nathanson , pp. 834-843
Sept. 29	Review for Midterm
Oct. 1	Midterm
Oct. 6	Hobbes, pp. 218-228
Oct. 8	Hume, pp. 244-257
Oct. 13	NO CLASS – Fall Break
Oct. 15	Kant, pp. 273-279
Oct. 20	Kant, pp. 279-297 **Paper 2 due**
Oct. 22	Mill, pp. 317-330
Oct. 27	Thomson, "The Trolley Problem", pp. 866-879
Oct. 29	Nietzsche, pp. 352-360
Nov. 3	James, pp. 361-372
Nov. 5	Sartre, pp. 396-402
Nov. 10	Singer, pp. 789-796; Arthur, pp. 797-808

Nov. 12   Ross, pp. 429-438

Nov. 17   Rachels, pp. 651-658   **Paper 2 due**

Nov. 19   Feinberg, pp. 614-624

Nov. 24   Rachels, pp. 779-783; Foot, pp. 783-788

Dec. 1   Held, pp. 679-694

Dec. 3   Regan, pp. 809-816; Cohen, pp. 817-823

Dec. 8   Review for final