

2015

PHIL 100-29 Ethics as Introduction to Philosophy

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Xavier University
Department of Philosophy

Course Syllabus for
Ethics as Introduction to Philosophy

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Daniel S Jones
Office Hours: By appointment
Phone: 513-391-0383 (cell)
Email: jonesds_2000@yahoo.com

PROSPECTUS

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an introduction to the history and processes of philosophy, as both a discipline and a way of life. The primary text for the course will be Plato's Republic, as well as additional readings provided by the instructor. Through Plato's work, we will conduct a meaningful examination of this discipline focused on moral and ethical considerations.

During the readings and class discussions, we will encounter many of the fundamental ethical and moral concerns that have driven and continue to drive Western culture, including: What is justice? Is a person just by nature or as a result of education? Why should we act in a moral way? What is the relationship between knowledge, technology, and virtue? How does virtue affect one's happiness? Where do moral judgments come from? What is the role of reason in virtue or just behavior?

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have: 1.) comprehension of one or more of the major works in philosophy; 2.) basic understanding of the main periods of Western Philosophy; 3.) ability to read critically, write effectively, and discuss intelligently the issues and particulars of each work; and 4.) capacity and confidence to take additional coursework in the discipline.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Plato. *The Republic of Plato*. Translated by Allan Bloom. New York, New York: Basic Books, Inc., 1991. 487 pp.

PROCEDURES

A combination of lectures, class discussions, exams, papers, quizzes, and brief written assignments will both instruct and evaluate the student in the essential principles of philosophy in this course. In order to participate in the course, students must read the assigned materials prior to class. In the subject of philosophy, perhaps more than elsewhere, questions from students on the materials are not only encouraged, but expected. As a general rule, if one student has a question about the material, classmates will have the same, or a similar, question. Please be sure to set phones/laptops/tablets/etc. to "silent" during the class period.

ATTENDANCE

As class discussion and lecture is a primary component of the course, attendance will be monitored for every class, by the taking of role. One absence is allowed without academic penalty. Any other absence must have approval from the instructor, or will result in academic penalty.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Midterm Paper (25%) Students will complete and submit a 3-4 page paper on a topic from the *Republic* to be provided.

Class Participation (10%) includes regular attendance and contribution to class discussion.

Pop-Quizzes (15%) administered in class to be sure everyone is keeping up with the reading and to ensure lively class discussion. (For those students who read, these will be no problem at all.)

Two (2) **Philosopher Summary Reports** (a total of 10%) due by the final day of class. Reports are to be 1-2 pages in length, covering the life, works, and influence of a philosopher selected from provided list. Up to three (3) additional Summary reports will be accepted for additional credit (a maximum of .3 points.)

Final Paper (40%) Cumulative in nature, this exercise will summarize the main points from all topics covered in the course, and offer students an opportunity to demonstrate their skill in comparing and contrasting the ideas and themes presented in the *Republic*. Paper is to be 6-8 pages in length.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

This course will adhere strictly to the University’s official statement on academic honesty, provided by the Office of the Registrar:

The pursuit of truth demands high standards of personal honesty. Academic and professional life requires a trust based upon integrity of the written and spoken word. Accordingly, violations of certain standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated at Xavier University. These include theft, cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance in assignments and tests, unauthorized copying of computer software, the falsification of results and material submitted in reports or admission and registration documents, and the falsification of any academic record including letters of recommendation.

All work submitted for academic evaluation must be the student's own. Certainly, the activities of other scholars will influence all students. However, the direct and unattributed use of another's efforts is prohibited as is the use of any work untruthfully submitted as one's own.

Penalties for violations of this policy may include one or more of the following: a zero for that assignment or test, an "F" in the course, and expulsion from the University. The dean of the college in which the student is enrolled is to be informed in writing of all such incidents, though the teacher has full authority to assign the grade for the assignment, test, or course. If disputes of interpretation arise, the student, faculty member, and chair should attempt to resolve the difficulty. If this is unsatisfactory, the dean will rule in the matter. As a final appeal, the academic vice president will call a committee of tenured faculty for the purpose of making a final determination.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Pre-assignment	Introduction and syllabus review
Week 1	Read Plato, <u>Republic 1</u> .
Week 2	Read Plato, <u>Republic 2-3</u> .
Week 3	Read Plato, <u>Republic 4</u> .
Week 4	Mid-course review; MIDTERM DUE
Week 5	Read Plato, <u>Republic 5</u>
Week 6	Read Plato, <u>Republic 6-7</u>
Week 7	Plato, <u>Republic 8-10</u>
Week 8	Course conclusion; FINAL PAPER DUE

UNDERGRADUATE GRADING SCALE

Grade	Quality Points
A	4.0
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.0
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.0
C-	1.67
D+	1.33
D	1.0
D-	0.67
F	0.0