100-17 Ethics as an Introduction to Philosophy

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Recommended Citation
Rodick, David, "100-17 Ethics as an Introduction to Philosophy" (2013). Philosophy Syllabi Fall 2013. 28.
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Course Description: This course explores issues concerning relationship between ethics and philosophy through a close reading of Plato's *Republic* and other cognate texts. We will explore the ways in which philosophical reflection leads to questions about justice – the manner in which we live and act?

Primary Texts:  
Plato, *Republic*;  
J. Glenn Gray, *Warriors*  
Philip Hallie, *In the Eye of the Hurricane*

Requirements: 3 papers (5-6 pages) and a Final Exam

- **Paper I** (Plato) 30%  
- **Paper II** (Gray) 25%  
- **Paper III** (*Hallie*) 25%  
- **Final Exam**: Essay Exam (cumulative) will be administered during scheduled final exam period. 20%

Class attendance and class participation are required! Repeated unexcused absences will result in failing grade.

**Part I: Plato**
8/26: Course Introduction: Who was Plato?  
8/28: Republic I  
9/4: Republic I  
9/6: Republic I  
9/9: Republic II  
9/11: Republic II  
9/16: Republic III  
9/18: Republic IV
9/23: *Republic*: V
9/25: *Republic*: VI (*Plato Paper Assigned*)
9/27: *Republic*: VI-VII
9/30: *Republic*: VII
10/2: *Republic* VII
10/9: *Republic* VIII
10/14: *Republic* VIII
10/16: *Republic* IX
10/21: *Republic* IX
10/23: *Republic* X
10/25: *Republic* X: *Plato Paper due*
10/28: Gray: Chapter 1 (Gray Paper Assigned)
10/30: Gray: Chapter 2
11/4: Gray: Chapter 3
11/6: Gray: Chapter 4
11/11: Gray: Chapter 5
11/13: Gray: Chapter 6-7
11/18: Hallie: Chapters 1 & 2 (*Gray Paper Due*)
11/20: Hallie: Chapter 3 (*Hallie Paper Assigned*)
11/25: Hallie: Chapter 3
12/2: Hallie: Chapter 4 & 5
12/4: Hallie: Chapter 10
12/9: Hallie: Chapter 10
12/11: Conclusions (*Hallie Paper Due*)

**Learning Objectives**

Demonstrate ability to articulate orally and in writing:

- The dramatic and philosophical unity of Plato’s *Republic*;
- The levels of the Plato’s “Divided Line” and their interrelation;
- The importance of the “upward” and “downward” ways in Plato’s “allegory of the cave”;
- Plato’s theory of knowledge as “recollection”;
- Five major themes concerning the experience of war (*The Warriors*);
- The ethical basis of action as demonstrated by the villagers of *Le Chambon* and Joshua James (*In the Eye of the Hurricane*).
Grading Policy

Grades are administered in accordance with the Registrar’s Grading Standards. See http://www.xavier.edu/registrar/facultyandstaff/Grading-Scales.cfm

Very Important!

Administrative Issues

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism is appropriating someone else’s words or ideas without formal acknowledgement. Go to http://www.xavier.edu/library/xututor/plagiarism/index.cfm
Any plagiarism will result in an F for the course, and your dean will be notified of the incident.

Don’t Do IT!

Electronics: Laptops, phones, iPods, and similar devices will not be used in class. Exceptions must be documented.

Any learning accommodations requested by the Office of Student Services will be supported completely.

Late Assignments will be reduced one letter grade for each class session assignment is late.

Classroom Etiquette

Rude and Unacceptable Behaviors:
Not having books/handouts used in class in your possession;
Coming to class unprepared;
Texting (or any use of electronic devices) during class;
Talking with others concerning matters unrelated to the class;
Tardiness;
Tuning-out;
Sleeping.

Some Suggestions:
• Arrive on time;
• Complete assigned readings;
• While waiting for class to begin, instead of talking or checking your phone, review your notes from last class;
• Choose a seat in a location other than the last row;
• Have your books on your desk ready to use;
• Consult your syllabus before class in order to understand what a particular class session will cover;
• Have questions prepared for the professor based upon a prior reading of the material;
• Engage!