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100-11 Ethics as an Introduction to Philosophy

James Riordan
riordanj@xavier.edu

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Philosophy 100-11
ETHICS AS INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. JAMES RIORDAN –
EMAIL: RIORDANJ@XAVIER.EDU
OFFICE LOCATION: CINTAS CENTER 203
OFFICE PHONE: X3573 / CELLULAR PHONE: 513-497-2403
OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT
CLASS MEETING TIME: WED/FRI 3:00-4:15 PM. ALTER HALL 001
SECTION NUMBER – 90443

COURSE AIMS:
As long as there have been human beings, justice has been a question—its nature, its forms, and its very possibility. By studying classic works of philosophy, especially Plato’s Republic, you will examine different views on justice and human goodness, tracing them back to the principles on which they depend, and reflect critically on these principles. You will also develop your ability to identify, understand and critique a variety of ethical issues. Finally, you will be introduced to other basic human questions and philosophical ways of thinking about them.

The course is part of the Ethics/Religion and Society focus. Consistent with the mission of Xavier University as a Jesuit, Catholic university rooted in the liberal arts tradition, the Ethics/Religion and Society (E/RS) sequence of courses provides a basis for you to become intellectually, morally and spiritually educated individuals capable of critical reflection on ethical and religious questions of social significance from the perspective of multiple disciplines with unique methods. Through the E/RS elective, you will develop a more proficient and durable ability to reflect critically on ethical and/or religious questions of social significance.

This course is part of the Xavier Core Curriculum, which aims to develop people of learning and reflection, integrity and achievement, in solidarity for and with others. The course addresses the following core learning objectives at a basic level:

Students recognize and cogently discuss significant questions in the humanities, arts, and the natural and social sciences.

Students identify and critically assess multiple dimensions of an ethical issue in an attempt to reach a conclusion.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
- Students will be effective communicators in writing and orally.
- Students will be critical thinkers.
- Students will be creators of new knowledge and expression.
- Students will be able to understand and appreciate the arts, humanities and science disciplines, and reflect on connections among these studies.
- Students will be integrated individuals who articulate a coherent, ethical perspective on the world and their place in it.
- Students will be aware global citizens.
-Students will be intellectually, morally and spiritually educated individuals capable of critical reflection on ethical and/or religious questions of social significance from the perspective of multiple disciplines with unique methods.

COURSE PROCEEDINGS:

This class meets only twice a week and therefore will require you to come prepared. I would not expect you to understand everything you read, but your preparedness will be evident based on your questions, engagement with the texts, and class time. There will be various ways you are evaluated in the course:

Quizzes: 10 points each/ 70 points total. 33%
Mid-Term Examination: 30 points. 14%
Participation: 10 points. 10%
Synthesis Essays: 20 points each / 60 points total. 29%
Final Examination: 30 points. 14%

This course will be graded on an 8 point scale as follows: A=92-100; B=84-91; C=76-83; D=68-75; F-67.

Considering our time frame and the material to be covered, it is imperative you come to all classes for the semester. If you miss more than 8 classes you will automatically fail the course.

Please do not be late to the class; if you will be late, please notify me ahead of time. Barring circumstances of hospitalization and death in a family, the following penalties will apply for all absences and tardiness:

a) You are allowed three absences from the class; there is no penalty. After three absences you will lose a letter grade from your final grade in the course (B, B-). For every absence please email me and let me know you will not be in class that day. This is a simple courtesy. If I have to cancel a class, I will do the same for you.

b) Tardiness: If you do not notify me ahead of time of your tardiness, I will subtract a point from your current grade in the class. Please arrive on time for class.

c) Make-Up Work: If you are absent on a day and miss a quiz, you will not be able to make it up.

d) Papers: If you are not present a day a paper is to be turned in I will deduct 20% off the given grade you receive. This holds for papers sent via email.
**Synthesis Essays:** You are responsible for writing synthesis essays throughout the semester. A “synthesis” is a combination of two or more entities that form something new. In the case of these essays, you are asked to take two or more readings and make a claim that is entirely new. You are NOT asked to summarize the readings; I assume that you have read and re-read the essays in order to write the paper. What you are to do is

1) Read the respective essays that fall between the last time you did a synthesis paper and the day the current one is due.
2) Make a claim on the relationship between the readings as you understand it (this is your thesis) Example: “After reading Plato’s *Republic* in relation to the “Death Penalty Debates,” it is clear that the death penalty does not create a better more civilized culture.” – Something like this is your thesis statement.
3) Now...after you make a solid claim, you defend it with information from the assigned readings. You must cite your sources. You can use a simple in-text reference for this (Riordan, 74).
4. Finally, make a conclusion that summarizes your claim and defense.
5. This synthesis paper should be 2 pages maximum.

**Technology:** You and I both live in a world in which we feel we need our smart phone, lap top, IPod, etc. I am there with you. In the class, I am going to ask you to put your phones away. You are not allowed to text or call during class. If your phone goes off in the class, I will subtract a point from your grade. It is really rude (as it is in worship service, theater, movie) for us to neglect to place our phones on vibrate.

**Plagiarism:** You will be expected to follow the policy for academic honesty as outlined in the Xavier University Catalog. Violation of this policy will result in an F on the assignment. A second violation of this policy will result in an F for the course.
-Consulting a website such as Sparknotes does not constitute plagiarism. Cutting and pasting from a website, however, is plagiarism, even if you rephrase occasional passages. Any time you use someone else’s words, you must provide an adequate citation.
-For helpful information on how to avoid plagiarism, see the xututor website (www.xavier.edu/library/xututor/plagiarism/).

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Wednesday, 24 August:**
**In-Class:** a) Discuss and clarify the syllabus b) Introduction to the course

**Homework:** Read,
http://www.salon.com/2013/07/01/be_employable_study_philosophy_partner/
Friday, 26 August:
In-Class: a) Discussion of Philosophy and Philosophy as a Spiritual Exercise  

Wednesday, 31 August:  
In-Class:  
   a) Quiz  
   b) Discussion of O’Connor and Philosophy  
Homework: Type one page recap of our discussion related to O’Connor and Philosophy

Friday 2 September:  
In-Class: a) Quiz   b) Discussion of Buddhist Ethics  
Homework: Read “Buddhist Ethics,” Pp. 58-68

Wednesday, 7 September:  
In-Class: a) Quiz   b) Discussion of “Buddhist Ethics”  
Homework: Write one page of how you can implement one idea of Buddhism

Friday, 9 September:  
In-Class: a) Further discussion of Buddhism  
Homework: Synthesis Paper #1

Wednesday, 14 September:  
In-Class: Turn in Synthesis Paper #1  

Friday, 16 September:  

Wednesday, 21 September:  
In-Class: Discussion of Republic  
Homework: Read essay on death penalty:  
http://www.newappsblog.com/2013/01/reading-plato-on-death-row.html  
http://www.eyewitnesshistory.com/socrates.htm  
http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/05/opinion/robbins-tsarnaev-death-penalty/

Friday, 23 September:  
In-Class: Discussion of the death penalty and Republic  
Wednesday, 28 September:
In-Class:  a) Quiz  
           b) Discussion of Republic, Book 1, pp. 14-35  
Homework: Read essays on Market Economy

Friday, 30 September:  
In-Class: Watch, Inequality for All

Wednesday, 5 October:  
In-Class: Inequality for All

Friday, 7 October:  
Fall Holiday – No class

Wednesday, 12 October:  
In-Class: Discussion of Book I and Inequality for All  
Homework: a) Synthesis Paper #2

Friday, 14 October:  
In-Class: b) Discuss questions for Mid-Term Exam  
Homework: Study for Mid-Term Examination

Wednesday, 19 October:  
In-Class: a) Midterm Examination  
Homework: Read Omnnigender pp. 1-16

Friday, 21 October:  
In-Class: a) Quiz  b) Discussion of Omnnigender  
Homework: Write a one page reflection on chapter one and discussion

Wednesday 26 October:  
In-Class: Continued discussion of chapter one and sharing of reflection paper  
Homework: Read Omnnigender pp. 17-37
Friday 28 October:
**In-Class:** Discussion of Omnigender pp. 17-37
**Homework:** Read Omnigender pp. 38-80

Wednesday 2 November:
**In-Class:** a) Quiz  b) Discussion of Omnigender 38-80
**Homework:** Read Love Does No Harm, Pp. 19-32

Friday 4 November:
**In-Class:** a) Discuss LDNH 19-32
**Homework:** Read LDNH 33-40

Wednesday 9 November:
**In-Class:** a) Quiz 
 b) Discussion of LDNH 33-40
**Homework:** Synthesis Paper #3

Friday 11 November:
**In-Class:** a) Hand in Synthesis Paper #3
 b) Miss Representation
**Homework:** Read LDNH 40-55

Wednesday 16 November:
**In-Class:** a) Miss Representation b) Discussion
**Homework:** Read LDNH 55-75

Friday 18 November:
**In-Class:** a) Quiz b) Discussion of LDNH 55-75
**Homework:** Read LDNH 75-85

November 23-25: No Classes

Wednesday 30 November:
**In-Class:** a) Discussion of LDNH 75-85
**Homework:** Read LDNH 85-102

Friday 2 December:
**In-Class:** a) Discussion of LDNH 85-102
**Homework:** Type a one page reflection on the relationship between LDNH and Miss Representation

Wednesday, 7 December:
**In-Class:** Discussion of the relationship between Miss. Representation and LDNH
Friday 9 December: Final Discussion. Review