

# ETHICAL THEORY

## PHILOSOPHY 3100

This course focuses on three major theories in ethics: virtue ethics, consequentialism/utilitarianism, and Kantianism. The semester is thus divided into three distinct subsections. Each subsection includes foundational readings from the originating philosophers (Aristotle, Bentham and Mill, and Kant) as well as readings from contemporary representatives of these three approaches. The course is thereby intended to give you a sense of the intellectual heritage of dominant ethical systems currently under defense in contemporary ethical debate.

### REQUIRED TEXTS:

The following texts are required for satisfactory completion of the course. The books await your purchase at the bookstore.

- VE = *Virtue Ethics*, ed. Stephen Darwall
- C = *Consequentialism*, ed. Stephen Darwall
- D = *Deontology*, ed. Stephen Darwall

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- 20% Summaries (three)
- 25% Midterm Paper
- 35% Final Paper
- 20% Participation

As this is a philosophy course, there will be a premium on clear thinking and clear writing. You are expected to participate in class discussion, to spend time revising and working on writing assignments, to come to class prepared, and to engage your fellow students in civil, yet stimulating and energized, discourse. To facilitate discussion, you must complete three *one-page* article summaries, in outline format, during the course of the class for a grade. In the first week of class, I will circulate a sheet for you to sign up for these summaries. On the days that we are to have read these authors, you are expected to come to class with photocopies of your summaries for your classmates (approx. 25 copies). As well, you are to help guide the class in discussion for that day. If all goes as planned, there should be at least two summarizers sitting in the class on any given day and all students should have copies of your summaries for their own note-keeping.

**Disabled Students:** As per the policies of the University of Colorado, an interest in your personal success, and a general sense of equity, all students with disabilities will be accorded reasonable assistance to ensure that they maximize performance in this class. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability please contact Disability Services so that I can work with them to address your needs. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities (303-492-8671, Willard 322, [www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices)). All information will be kept strictly confidential.

Professor: Benjamin Hale

Classroom (3100-10): HALE 260

Class Time (3100-10): 9:00 - 9:50 MWF

Classroom (3100-20): EKLC E1B50

Class Time (3100-20): 2:00 - 2:50 MWF

E-mail: [bhale@colorado.edu](mailto:bhale@colorado.edu)

Office: Hellems 275

Office Hours: 1-2 MW, and by appt.

Phone: 303 492-8577

Spring Semester, 2006

	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
<b>Virtue Ethics</b>		Jan 18: Introduction	Jan 20: Aristotle, VE: 7-50 (esp. Books I and II)
	Jan 23: Aristotle, VE: 7-50 (cont.; esp. Book III)	Jan 25: Aristotle, VE: 7-50 (cont.; esp. Book IV)	Jan 27: F. Hutcheson, VE: 51-62
	Jan 30: P. Foot, VE: 105-120	Feb 1: J. McDowell, VE: 121-143	Feb 3: Foot and McDowell (cont.)
	Feb 6: A. MacIntyre, VE: 144-167	Feb 8: A. MacIntyre (cont.)	Feb 10: R. Hursthouse, VE: 184-202
	Feb 13: R. Hursthouse, VE: 184-202	Feb 15: M. Slote, VE: 203-226	Feb 17: M. Slote, VE: 203-226
<b>Consequentialism</b>	Feb 20: J. Bentham, C: 11-31	Feb 22: J. Bentham (cont.)	Feb 24: J.S. Mill, C: 32-49
	Feb 27: J.S. Mill, C: 50-63	Mar 1: J.S. Mill (cont.)	Mar 3: H. Sidgwick, C: 67-88
	Mar 6 – No Class (?)	Mar 8 – No Class (?)	Mar 10: H. Sidgwick (cont.) and G.E. Moore, C: 89-92
	Mar 13: P. Pettit, C: 95-107	Mar 15: D. Parfit, C: 132-159	Mar 17: D. Parfit (cont.)
	Mar 20: P. Railton, C: 160-196	Mar 22: P. Railton (cont.)	Mar 24: R. Adams, C: 236-250
	Mar 27 – 31	<b>SPRING BREAK!</b>	
<b>Kantianism</b>	Apr 3: I. Kant, Groundwork I	Apr 5: I. Kant, Groundwork I & II	Apr 7: I. Kant, Groundwork I & II
	Apr 10: W.D. Ross, D: 55-80	Apr 12: W. D. Ross (cont.)	Apr 14: No Class
	Apr 17: T. Nagel, D: 90-111	Apr 19: T. Nagel (cont.)	Apr 21: S. Darwall, D: 112-138
	Apr 24: J.J. Thomson, D: 139-161	Apr 26: J.J. Thomson (cont.)	Apr 28: F. Kamm, D: 162-193
	May 1: F. Kamm (cont.)	May 3: C. Korsgaard, D: 212-235	May 5: C. Korsgaard (cont.)
	May 8	May 10	May 12