

# Philosophy 160

## Ethical Theory

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H&SS 1128A  
 MWF 11:00-11:50  
 Office Hour M 12:00-1:00

### Winter 2017: Utilitarianism and Deontology

The aim of the course is to develop an understanding of the nature of modern ethical theory by looking at two great systematic accounts of the moral principles governing what we ought to do: the utilitarian theory of Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832) & John Stuart Mill (1806-1873) and the deontological theory of Immanuel Kant (1724-1804).

#### Class Schedule

- Section I: Utilitarianism, the Early Formulation: Jeremy Bentham (4 Classes)

Text: *The Principles of Morals and Legislation* [1789]

Monday	Jan 9	<b>First Meeting</b>	
Wednesday	Jan 11	Utility (1)	Chapters I,II
Friday	Jan 13	Utility (2)	Chapters III-V
Monday	Jan 16	<b>MLK Day Holiday</b>	<b>No Class</b>
Wednesday	Jan 18	Action (1)	Chapters VII, VIII
Friday	Jan 20	Action (2)	Chapters X-XI

- Section II: Utilitarianism, the Great Revision: John Stuart Mill (9 Classes)

Text: *Utilitarianism* [1861]

Monday	Jan 23	General Remarks	Chapter 1
Wednesday	Jan 25	What Utilitarianism is (1)	Chapter 2
Friday	Jan 27	What Utilitarianism is (2)	Chapter 2
Monday	Jan 30	What Utilitarianism is (3)	Chapter 2
Wednesday	Feb 1	Ultimate Sanction (1)	Chapter 3
Friday	Feb 3	Ultimate Sanction (2)	Chapter 3
Monday	Feb 6	Proof (1)	Chapter 4
Wednesday	Feb 8	Proof (2)	Chapter 4
Friday	Feb 10	Justice and Utility	Chapter 5

**First Paper:** In class Friday February 10

- Section III. Deontology, the Kantian Alternative: Immanuel Kant (14 Classes)

Text: *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* [1785]

Monday	Feb 13	The Good Will	387-397
Wednesday	Feb 15	Actions from Duty	398-405
Friday	Feb 17	Imperatives	406-420
Monday	Feb 20	<b>President's Day Holiday</b>	<b>No class</b>
Wednesday	Feb 22	Formula of Universal Law (1)	420-421
Friday	Feb 24	Formula of Universal Law (2)	422-427
Monday	Feb 27	Formula of Humanity (1)	428-431
Wednesday	Mar 1	Formula of Humanity (2)	429
Friday	Mar 3	Formula of Humanity (3)	430-431
Monday	Mar 6	Autonomy and the Kingdom of Ends (1)	431-433
Wednesday	Mar 8	Autonomy and the Kingdom of Ends (2)	434-437
Friday	Mar 10	Autonomy and the Kingdom of Ends (3)	437-445
Monday	Mar 13	Freedom (1)	446-448
Wednesday	Mar 15	Freedom (2)	449-453
Friday	Mar 17	Freedom (3)	454-463

**Second Paper:** In class Friday March 3

**Third Paper:** In class Friday March 17

- **Review Session:** Friday 17 March 5:00-7:00 pm
- **Final Exam:** Monday 20 March 11:30-2:30 am/pm

### Required Texts

Bentham		<i>The Principles of Morals and Legislation</i>	Prometheus Books
Mill	Roger Crisp ed.	<i>Utilitarianism</i>	Oxford
Kant	Mary Gregor trans.	<i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i>	Cambridge

### Requirements

Regular attendance, class participation, two 2-page papers, one 5-page paper, final examination. **All work must be completed to receive a passing final grade.**

### Papers

Topics will be assigned in class. Due dates subject to revision. Students are required to hand in a hard copy in class on due date *and* to submit an identical copy electronically to Turnitin via TritonEd.

Extensions will be granted when circumstances warrant *provided arrangements are made with the instructor at least 24 hours in advance.* There are no automatic extensions. It is better to ask for an extension sooner rather than later. Except in unusual circumstances (e.g. medical emergencies, a disaster that strikes the student or the immediate family), unexcused late papers are subject to the penalty of being dropped at least one letter grade e.g. B>C.

Interpretations or ideas borrowed, directly or indirectly, from secondary sources or other people (apart from the instructor but including fellow students) must be footnoted. Any use of web-based material must be footnoted. Anything else is plagiarism and will be treated as such. Students are encouraged to discuss paper topics but must write the papers **alone.**

Students are responsible for making and keeping an extra copy of their paper in case the original is lost.

### Grade Weights

2-Page Papers	30% (15+15)
5- Paper	30%
Final	40 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Participation 10 possible bonus points. Class participation can only bring grades *up*, never down  
 Bonus points kick in at the half-grade margin (e.g. between a C+ and B-)

### Grade Range

Papers in Philosophy 160 are not graded on a curve. Each student can in principle receive an A. The same holds true for less desirable grades.

The minimal standard of performance for a grade of P shall be the same as that for a grade of C- (including a C- on the final).

### Additional Information

Students are expected to have read the material in advance, to **bring the text** and to be prepared discuss it in class.

The Academic Honor Code must be observed in this course. Cheating will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating will receive an automatic F for the course and be referred to the ADHB for disciplinary action.

If accommodations are needed for a disability or religious reasons, please notify the instructor during the first class period or as soon as possible.