



# AMBROSE

## **PH 202 Ethics Winter 2011**

Time: Wednesday & Friday 2:30 – 3:45  
Location: Airhart Theatre

Instructor Information:  
**Kenneth M. Nickel (MAR, MSc, PhD ABD)**  
**Associate Professor of Philosophy**  
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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides students with a general survey of the history of moral philosophy. As well, it introduces them to the important debates in moral theorizing and to the practice of applied ethics.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Students should learn to appreciate the contributions of prominent historical figures in the development of the Western tradition of moral philosophy such as Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Hume, Kant, Mill, Nietzsche, among others.
2. Students should learn to articulate the general distinctions between metaethics, normative ethics, and applied ethics.
3. Students should learn to articulate some of the practical and conceptual implications of various schools of ethical thought such as utilitarianism, deontology, noncognitivism, intuitionism, among others.
4. Students should learn to appreciate how moral philosophy engages with important areas of allied study including, but not limited to, theology, education, and political and legal philosophy.

## TEXTBOOK

- Cahn, Steven M., and Peter Markie, eds. *Ethics: History, Theory, and Contemporary Issues*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2009.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Attendance and Participation** 20%
  - Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Students are expected to attend each class session **with assigned text material and an engaged frame of mind**. Students should be prepared to contribute meaningful conversation to the topics under discussion. **Each absence from class merits an immediate .5% deduction (1 mark)** and class participation is assessed on the balance. For example, if a student misses two classes and generally participates excellently in class he or she generally cannot achieve more than 18/20 for this portion of his or her grade. **Students in class without text material and otherwise engaged in non-class activities are simply in the same room and may be assessed as absent.** Students who miss no more than two lectures with demonstrably good reasons (e.g., athletic participation) will have their participation assessed on the basis of 20/20.
  - Students who arrive late to class or leave early may be marked as absent. As a general rule **two late arrivals or early departures** will amount to one absence.
  - Student participation will also be assessed on the basis of 'posts' within discussion forums on Moodle. Discussion forums are intended to facilitate thoughtful interaction related to lecture material. Students are **required to make 16 'quality' posts** over the course of the term and no more than two posts will be counted in any one week. Posts can consist of thoughtful questions related to the lecture material or responses to other questions or opinions. Although the discussion forum provides a qualitative rendering of each student's participation, **failures to post will equate to absences from class**; e.g., 14/16 quality posts will take 1 mark off and participation will be assessed on the balance.
  - **Laptops are unnecessary and are strongly discouraged.** They are deleterious to student participation.
- Midterm Examination** 15%
  - February Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>
- Research Paper** 25%
  - Due: Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30 PM
  - A separate handout regarding topics, format guidelines, and late policy will be provided.
- Final Exam** 40%

- Date: Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 AM in Airhart
- Students must pass the final exam to ensure a passing grade in the course. A student who performs well during the term but fails the final exam may fail the course.
- Students should refrain from scheduling flights or travel of any sort that will conflict with the Final Examination schedule. Final examinations will not be rescheduled to accommodate travel arrangements.

**GRADING:** The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
A+	4.0		90-100 %
A	4.0	Exceptional	85-89 %
A-	3.7		80-84 %
B+	3.3		77-79 %
B	3.0	Exceeds Expectations	73-76 %
B-	2.7		70-72 %
C+	2.3		67-69 %
C	2.0	Meets Expectations	63-66 %
C-	1.7		60-62 %
D+	1.3		55-59 %
D	1.0	Minimal Pass	50-54 %
F	0.0	Failure	49 < %

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Last day to enter a course without permission and to withdraw from course and receive tuition refund is January 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Last day to withdraw from courses or change to audit without academic penalty is March 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Last day to request revised time for a final examination is March 29<sup>th</sup>.

## IMPORTANT NOTES

- *Cell phones, recording devices, head phones, and all other technology that is not essential for class by the instructor's criteria are prohibited.*
- *Lap top computers, when not used exclusively for taking class notes, are often a distraction to classmates and even the individual user. Their use is discouraged.*
- *Lap tops used for purposes unrelated to taking lecture notes are prohibited. Violators will be asked to leave the class. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Academic Vice-President's Office.*
- *Students are expected to respect the learning environment of the classroom. Make every attempt to be on time. Be prudent and careful in your consumption of food and drink. Keep unnecessary conversations and comments to a minimum as they are distracting to both the instructor and fellow classmates. As well, they are often deleterious to a student's performance in the class.*
- *Ambrose is committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating*

can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.

- Students are responsible to check their Ambrose e-mail account regularly. E-mail may be used to notify students of cancelled classes or other important details relating to the course.
- Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at [privacy@ambrose.edu](mailto:privacy@ambrose.edu).
- Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a "Course Extension." Alternative times for final examinations cannot be scheduled without prior approval. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the appropriate deadline. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."
- Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

## ***PH 202 COURSE OUTLINE<sup>1</sup>***

### **Historical and Thematic Survey**

Jan 6 Introduction

Jan 8 Plato

Jan 13

Jan 15 Aristotle & Virtue Ethics

Jan 20

Jan 22 Epictetus & Stoicism

Jan 27 St. Augustine & Divine Command Theory

Jan 29 St. Thomas Aquinas & Natural Law Theory

Feb 3 David Hume & Emotivism

Feb 5 Immanuel Kant & Deontology

Feb 10

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<sup>1</sup> This course outline is provisional and may, at the discretion of the instructor, require revision over the course of the term. The instructor reserves the right to deviate from the outline to accommodate, amongst other things, timely issues or pressing concerns.

Feb 12          Midterm Exam

Feb 17          Reading break  
Feb 19 R        Reading break

Feb 24          Jeremy Bentham, J.S. Mill & Utilitarianism  
Feb 26          Fried Nietzsche & Existentialism

**Applied Topics**

Mar 3          Abortion  
Mar 5 YC

Mar 10

Mar 12          Euthanasia

Mar 17

Mar 19          Same Sex Marriage

Mar 24

Mar 26          Poverty

Mar 31          Torture  
Apr 2 Good Friday – No Class

Apr 7

Apr 9