

GONZAGA-IN-FLORENCE SYLLABUS

Course: Phil. 301, Ethics, 11:30-1:30, M-Th.

Credits: 3 Credits

Instructor: Jay Ciaffa, Dept. of Philosophy, ciaffa@gonzaga.edu



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Course Description

This course is an introduction to ethics. Primary attention will be devoted to issues in theoretical ethics as expressed in classical texts in the field. Students will be introduced to prominent works in virtue ethics, utilitarianism, and Kantian deontology. The last part of the course will examine some problems in applied ethics, with an emphasis on issues in medical ethics.

Required Texts

Plato, *The Last Days of Socrates*. Penguin Classic, paperback, ISBN 0-140-44928-0

Plato, *The Republic*. Trans. Cornford. Oxford, paperback, ISBN 0-19-500364-0

Aristotle, *Nichomachean Ethic*. Trans. David Ross. Oxford, paperback, ISBN 0-19-283407-x

Aquinas, *On Happiness and Natural Law* (selections, posted on Blackboard).

Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*. Trans. James Ellington. Hackett, paperback, ISBN 0-87220-166-x

Mill, *On Liberty and Utilitarianism*. Bantam, paperback, ISBN 0-553-21414-4.

Supplementary selections in applied ethics (posted on blackboard).

Note: These texts are all relatively short and cheap (they are typically available for \$5 to \$20). They will be available at the GU bookstore, but they are also easily obtainable via the internet at Amazon and other sites.

Course Requirements and Grading

Students are required to take three essay tests and numerous several quizzes. You are also required to complete reading assignments and participate in class discussions.

Note: Reading Assignments and homework will be posted on blackboard. Students who miss class are responsible for completing all assignments. If you have any questions about what material we will be covering on a particular day, be sure to email me.

Quizzes: 25% of final grade.

Quizzes will be given throughout the semester, and they will usually be unannounced. Quizzes will be based on reading assignments and class discussions. Quizzes will typically ask students to identify key aspects of a reading assignment or discuss an important idea. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class, and will usually take about 10 minutes. No makeups will be given to students who miss quizzes due to absence or tardiness. Students who miss class for a serious reason should inform the instructor in a timely manner (preferably via email before the start of class). In such cases, I will consider excusing the students from a missed quiz. Each student's lowest quiz score will be dropped before final grades are calculated.

Three Tests: 25% each of final grade.

Tests will be essay in format, and will be based on material covered in class. Tests will be designed to test both retention of concepts and the ability to apply critical thinking skills. Students will take tests in Bluebooks, which can be purchased at the GU bookstore. Prior to the first exam, each student must supply the instructor with 3 unmarked bluebooks (one for each exam). A student who fails to supply a bluebook for a test will have to go buy one before being allowed to take the test, which means he or she will have reduced time for the test. Makeup exams will only be given for students who miss class for a serious and compelling reason, and who contact the instructor on or before the day of the exam.

Exam dates will always be announced at least one week in advance. There is no comprehensive final exam for this course. The final exam will cover the last section of material, and will be given on **Friday, June 25 during the regularly scheduled class period.**

Class participation will be taken into account in exceptional cases, both positive and negative. Students who participate regularly in class discussions and show evidence of preparation may have their final grade raised at least one level. Students who miss more than 4 classes or who engage in disruptive behaviors may have their grade lowered by at least one level. Disruptive behaviors include: leaving class once the session has started, talking out of turn, and having one's cell phone ring.

Note: Students who miss class for a serious and compelling reason should let the instructor know in a timely manner if they want consideration for an excused absence.

Note on Academic Integrity: Any student caught cheating on an assignment will be given a zero for that assignment. Infractions such as plagiarism may result in a grade of "F" for the course.

Grades will be calculated according to the following scale:

A: 93-100
A-: 90-93
B+: 87-90
B: 83-87
B-: 80-83
C+: 77-80
C: 73-77
C-: 70-73
D+: 67-70
D: 60-67
F: under 60

Session Schedule:

SUMMER SESSION 2010

Wed.	May 12	Group Assembles in Rome
Wed-Sun	May 12-16	Opening Tour
Mon.	May 17	<i>Classes Begin</i>
Fri.	May 21	Last Day to Withdraw from Classes
Wed.	June 2	Italian Republic Day (National Holiday-School closed)
Th.	June 24	Patron's Day (school closed)
Fri	June 25	Final Exams
Sat	June 26	Students must vacate pensione by 12:00 noon
Tue.	June 29	Grades Due in Registrar's Office

(revised Mar. 6, 2009 - SUBJECT TO CHANGE)