Class code: PHIL-UA9040001

Instructor Details: Dolores Iorizzo

Class Details: Spring 2014
Thursday 10:00 – 1:00
Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites: None

Class Description: Introduces students to the fundamental questions of moral philosophy, with attention to both classic and contemporary readings. (What is it to be a good human being, and to act morally? How do we decide what morality demands of us in some situation?) Also addresses some issues of current moral debate.

Lectures, discussion of case studies, analysis of literature and film, extensive student participation.

Desired Outcomes: A better understanding of the nature of the right and the good, ethical character, and agency, and the methods of philosophy in acquiring this understanding. This course will also develop analytical skills (reading, writing, thinking, argumentation) that will benefit the student in their other courses.

Assessment Components: A midterm essay (by week 7 – 30% - up to 2000 words), a final essay (by week 14 - 40% - up to 3000 words) and a final examination (week 15 in class - 30%). Each student will get a grade no lower than that determined by these inputs and in this proportion, but in some cases a higher grade may be awarded to take into account such factors as improvement, effort, and so on. Grades will be lowered by 3% in the case of each unexcused absence beyond one, and by 1.5% for each late arrival (after warning given).

Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component results in failure of the class.

Assessment Expectations:

Grade A: Mastery of the issues and literature, and an ability to make some original contribution.

Grade B: Good grasp of issues and literature, but little or no attempt at own contribution.

Grade C: Some but uncertain grasp of the issues.

Grade D: Failure to grasp issues but some attempt made.

Grade F: Not even trying.


J.J.C. Smart and Bernard Williams, Utilitarianism: For and Against (Cambridge University Press - ISBN: 052109822X )


There are many useful sources on the internet, but also many bad ones. The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy is faultless, but there are many other sites that provide incorrect information. If you want to use an internet site, please consult me as to its usefulness or credibility.

Ethics Journal.

Session 1: The Aspirations of Ethics
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<td>30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Jan 14</td>
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<td>Readings: Williams, <em>Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy</em></td>
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<td>6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Feb 14</td>
<td>Session 2</td>
<td>Definitions of Justice</td>
<td>Readings: Plato, <em>Republic</em>, Book 1</td>
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<td>20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Feb 14</td>
<td>Session 4</td>
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<td>27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Feb 14</td>
<td>Session 5</td>
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<td>Readings: Plato, <em>Republic</em>, Book 7</td>
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<td>First Essay Due: 21 March</td>
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<td>20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March 14</td>
<td>Session 8</td>
<td>The Moral Philosophy of Kant</td>
<td>Readings: Kant, <em>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</em></td>
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<td>27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March 14</td>
<td>Session 9</td>
<td>The Moral Philosophy of Kant</td>
<td>Readings: Kant, <em>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</em></td>
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<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; April 14</td>
<td>Session 10</td>
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<td>Readings: Kant, <em>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</em></td>
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<td>Readings: Williams, <em>Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy</em>, Ch.4</td>
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10th April 14  Readings: Mill, *Utilitarianism*, Chs 1-4

**Session 12**  
**Utilitarianism, Justice and Rights**

1st May 14  Readings: Mill, *Utilitarianism*, Ch. 5  
Readings: Smart and Williams, *Utilitarianism: For and Against*

**Session 13**  
**Abortion and Euthanasia**

8th May 14  Readings: Thomson and Tooley in Singer (ed.), *Applied Ethics*

**Session 14**  
**Life and Death**

15th May 14  Readings: Hume and Rachels in Singer (ed.), *Applied Ethics*  
Final Paper Due

**Session 15**

22nd May 14  Final Exam

**Classroom Etiquette**

Toilet breaks should be taken before or after class or during class breaks.  
Food & drink, including gum, are not to be consumed in class.  
Mobile phones should be set on silent and should not be used in class except for emergencies.  
Laptops are only to be used with the express permission of the teacher.  
Please kindly dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.

**Required Co-curricular Activities**

None

**Suggested Co-curricular Activities**

Public Philosophy Lectures and Seminars in London will be announced and students are encouraged to attend.

**Your Instructor**

Dolores Iorizzo has been teaching *Ethics* at the University of London, King’s College and Imperial College since 1992. She has worked on many international research projects in philosophy and the history of science, including the *Ancient Commentators on Aristotle Project* at King’s College London (http://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/depts/philosophy/research/commentators/index.aspx) and (http://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/depts/philosophy/research/commentators/index.aspx) The Newton Project

**NYU LONDON ACADEMIC POLICIES**
Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism: the presentation of another piece of work or words, ideas, judgments, images or data, in whole or in part, as though they were originally created by you for the assignment, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the plagiarism policy.

All students must submit an electronic copy of each piece of their written work to www.turnitin.com and hand in a printed copy with the digital receipt to their professor. Late submission of work rules apply to both the paper and electronic submission and failure to submit either copy of your work will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.

Electronic Submission
The Turnitin database will be searched for the purpose of comparison with other students’ work or with other pre-existing writing or publications, and other academic institutions may also search it.

In order for you to be able to submit your work onto the Turnitin website, you will need to set up an account:

1) Go onto the Turnitin website http://www.turnitin.com
2) Click ‘Create Account’ in the top right hand corner
3) Select user type of ‘student’
4) Enter your class ID & Turnitin class enrolment password (these will be e-mailed to you after the drop/add period, or contact academics@nyu.ac.uk if you have misplaced these).
5) Follow the online instructions to create your profile.

To submit your work for class, you will then need to:

1) Log in to the Turnitin website
2) Enter your class by clicking on the class name
3) Next to the piece of work you are submitting (please confirm the due date), click on the ‘submit’ icon
4) Enter the title of your piece of work
5) Browse for the file to upload from wherever you have saved it (USB drive, etc.), please ensure your work is in Word or PDF format, and click ‘submit’
6) Click ‘yes, submit’ to confirm you have selected the correct paper (or ‘no, go back’ to retry)
7) You will then have submitted your essay onto the Turnitin website.
8) Please print your digital receipt and attach this to the hard copy of your paper before you submit it to your professor (this digital receipt appears on the web site, immediately after you submit your paper and is also sent to your e-mail address). Please also note that when a paper is submitted to Turnitin all formatting, images, graphics, graphs, charts, and drawings are removed from the paper so that the program can read it accurately. Please do not print the paper in this form to submit to your lecturers, as it is obviously pretty difficult to read! You can still access the exact file you uploaded by clicking on the ‘file’ icon in the ‘content’ column.

Please also see the Late Submission of Work policy, above.

Students must retain an electronic copy of their work for one month after their grades are posted online on Albert and must supply an electronic copy of their work if requested to do so by NYU in London. Not submitting a copy of a piece of work upon request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class. NYU in London may submit in an electronic form the work of any student to a database for use in the detection of plagiarism, without further prior notification to the student. Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are set out in the Student Handbook.
Late Submission of Work

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor. Late work should be submitted in person to a member of NYU London staff in the Academic Office (Room 308, 6 Bedford Square) during office hours (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30). Please also send an electronic copy to academics@nyu.ac.uk for submission to Turnitin.

Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

Written work submitted more than 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

Please note end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

Attendance Policy

NYUL has a strict policy about course attendance. No unexcused absences are permitted. While students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work, you should NOT approach them for excused absences.

Excused absences will usually only be considered for serious, unavoidable reasons such as personal ill–health or illness in the immediate family. Trivial or non-essential reasons for absence will not be considered.

Excused absences can only be considered if they are reported in accordance with guidelines which follow, and can only be obtained from the appropriate member of NYUL’s staff.

Please note that you will need to ensure that no make-up classes – or required excursions - have been organised before making any travel plans for the semester.

Absence reporting for an absence due to illness

1. On the first day of absence due to illness you should report the details of your symptoms by e-mailing absences@nyu.ac.uk including details of: class(es) missed; professor; class time; and whether any work was due including exams. Or call free (from landline) 0800 316 0469 (option 2) to report your absences on the phone.

2. Generally a doctor’s note will be required to ensure you have sought treatment for the illness. Contact the Gower Street Health Centre on 0207 636 7628 to make an appointment, or use HTH general practitioners if you cannot get an appointment expediently at Gower Street.

3. At the end of your period of absence, you will need to complete an absence form online at http://bit.ly/NyuCISK. You will need to log in to NYU Home to access the form.

4. Finally you must arrange an appointment to speak to Nigel Freeman or Donna Drummond-Smart on your first day back at class. You must have completed the absence form before making your appointment.

Supporting documentation relating to absences must be submitted within one week of your return to class.

Absence requests for non-illness reasons

Absence requests for non-illness reasons must be discussed with the Academic Office prior to the date(s) in question – no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retrospectively. Please come in and see us in Room 308, 6 Bedford Square, or e-mail us at academics@nyu.ac.uk.

Further information regarding absences

Each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student’s final course mark. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from an examination (with authorisation, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, viva voce (oral examination), or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).
NYUL also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem it is the prerogative of each instructor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade of each late arrival and each early departure.

Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the policies relating to attendance. A copy is in your apartment and has been shared with you on Google Docs.

### Grade conversion

NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

- A=94-100
- A-=90-93
- B+=87-89
- B=84-86
- B-=80-83
- C+=77-79
- C=74-76
- C-=70-73
- D+=67-69
- D=65-66
- F=below 65

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the mid point of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).

### Grading Policy

NYU in London aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square.