

Ethics of Personal Relations

Professor Jamie Lindsay
College Now

PHIL 3305
Section: CN1B
Code: 3868
Spring 2012
1:00-3:30pm
Library Technology Room

In this course we will explore a several approaches to philosophical ethics, and apply these theoretical approaches to questions that arise in personal relations. You will have ample opportunity to develop your abilities to think and write about philosophical questions, to practice giving reasons for your views, and to consider opposing arguments carefully. The focus of the course will be on classroom discussion, with the aim of encouraging you to develop your own views in dialogue with the texts and with each other.

Final Grade:

Classwork:	30%
Presentations:	30%
Midterm:	20%
Final Exam:	20%

Course Requirements:

1. You are expected to read all assigned texts *before* the meeting for which they are assigned, and to bring printed copies of readings to class. No textbook is required.
2. There will be several brief in-class and take-home writing assignments, during the semester. **Assignments will be given in class (and nowhere else), so if you're absent without a legitimate emergency to excuse the absence, you will not have the assignment.**
3. Attendance is mandatory. According to the Brooklyn College Bulletin: "Students are expected to attend **all** scheduled sessions of every class for which they register. Students late for class may be excluded from the room. An instructor may consider attendance and class participation in determining course grade." Lateness, absences, and lack of positive participation (or any negative participation) will affect your final grade dramatically.
4. Two 5-10m group presentations are required. Powerpoint (PC) or Keynote (Mac) Slideshows are encouraged (but not required) for the presentations, and you should make an effort to use relevant media to accent your presentation (humor works here). One group may present the Midterm, and one group may present the Final Exam, on the last day.
5. There will be one Midterm Exam, consisting of short answer questions.
6. The Final Exam questions will be distributed prior to the end of the semester. The Exam will consist of short-answer questions requiring at most three sentences each, in response.

I. Introduction to Philosophical Ethics:

- 2/1: Introduction. Peter Singer, "Rich and Poor."
- 2/8: Plato, from *Apology*; "Critical Thinking I."
- 2/15: Thomas Nagel, "War and Massacre;" "Critical Thinking II."
- 2/22: WINTER RECESS.
- 2/29: TRIP TO BROOKLYN COLLEGE. Thomas Hobbes, from *Leviathan*; "Critical Thinking III."

II. In Search of an Ethics of Personal Relationships:

- 3/7: John Hardwig, "In Search of an Ethics of Personal Relationships."
- 3/14: John Cottingham, "Ethics of Self-Concern."
- 3/21: Marilyn Friedman, "The Practice of Impartiality."
- 3/28: Discussion.
- 4/4: Midterm Exam.
- 4/11: SPRING RECESS

III. Responses from Social and Political Philosophy:

- 4/18: Albert Camus, from *The Myth of Sisyphus*.
- 4/25: SENIOR/JUNIOR TRIP
- 5/2: Simone de Beauvoir, "Personal Freedom and Others."
- 5/9: Cheshire Calhoun, "Justice, Care, Gender Bias."
- 5/16: Sibyl Schwarzenbach, "Democracy and Friendship."
- 5/23: Final discussion; *Walking Dead*, Season Two, Episode Thirteen.
- 5/30: Final Exam

NY Policy on Religious Observance:

Any student in an institution of higher education who is unable, because of their religious beliefs, to attend classes on a particular day or days shall, because of such absence on the particular day or days, be excused from any examination or any study or work requirements. It shall be the responsibility of the faculty to make available to each student who is absent from school, because of religious beliefs, an equivalent opportunity to make up any examination, study or work requirements which they may have missed because of such absence on any particular day or days. Any student who is aggrieved by the alleged failure of any faculty or administrative officials to comply in good faith shall be entitled to maintain an action or proceeding in the supreme court of the county in which such institution of higher education is located for the enforcement of their rights.

CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity

The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for implementing that policy can be found at this site: <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies>. If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity and, upon investigation, confirms that violation, or if the student admits that violation, the faculty member MUST report the violation. Copying text from Wikipedia without proper citation counts as plagiarism.