PHIL 151001, Ethics, 3 Credits
Boston College Summer Session 2017
Summer Session 1, May 16 - June 22, 2017
Tuesdays & Thursdays from 6:00-9:15PM

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Boston College Mission Statement
Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description
This course introduces students to the main schools of ethical thought in the Western philosophical tradition. We will examine works by philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Kant, Nietzsche, Rawls, and Martin Luther King, Jr. We will ask how the ethical issues focused on by these thinkers can help us reflect on the way we live our lives and what are reasonable ethical expectations we can have of others.

Textbooks (Required); For Readings Please See Course Schedule Below
Plato, Plato: Meno, trans. Grube, 2nd ed. (Hackett), 9780915144242;
Plato, Plato: Republic, trans. Grube, 2nd ed.(Hackett) 9780872201361;
St. Augustine, Confessions, trans. Chadwick, Reissued (Oxford) 9780199537822;
Kant, Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals, trans. Ellington, 3rd ed. (Hackett), 9780872201668;
Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morality, trans. Clark and Swensen (Hackett), 9780872202832;
Rawls, A Theory of Justice, Revised Edition (Beknap Press), 97806740000780;
Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from the Birmingham Jail" available online;
Canvas
Canvas is the Learning Management System (LMS) at Boston College, designed to help faculty and students share ideas, collaborate on assignments, discuss course readings and materials, submit assignments, and much more - all online. As a Boston College student, you should familiarize yourself with this important tool. For more information and training resources for using Canvas, click here.

Course Objectives
1. Each student is expected to understand with a fair degree of subtlety the ethical ideas of the various philosophers; this understanding will be demonstrated through a student's class discussion and written work.
2. Each student is expected to evaluate with a fair degree of subtlety the ethical ideas of the various philosophers; this understanding will be demonstrated through a student's class discussion and written work.
3. Each student is expected to consider the degree to which the ethical ideas they encounter in their readings have relevance to the way they are living their lives.
4. Each student is expected to learn the civil art of conversing respectfully with each other whether they are agreeing or disagreeing with the views of other students.
5. Each student is expected to improve their skill in expressing philosophical ideas both orally and in writing.

Grading
1. Class attendance is mandatory and will be monitored. More than one absence will affect your overall grade for the course;
2. Class preparedness and class participation are required. These will be used to raise or lower your overall grade for the course by up to four points. If, however, unusual circumstances warrant it, your overall grade for the course can be adjusted by more than four points;
3. Every Monday by 3:00 PM students are required to submit online reflections on the assigned readings for the coming week's classes = 20% of the overall grade;
4. There will be four short papers (three to four pages in length) = 60 % of the overall grade;
5. There will be a final exam given on the last day of classes = 20% of the overall grade;
6. There will be optional extra credit opportunities.

The undergraduate grading system for Summer Session is as follows:

A (4.00), A- (3.67)
B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67)
C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67)
D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67)
F (.00)

All students can access final grades through Agora after the grading deadline each semester. Transcripts are available through the Office of Student Services.

Deadlines and Late Work
Deadlines will need to be adhered to especially so that you are prepared for all class discussions and do not fall behind in your written work. If work is handed in late there will be grade reductions.

Course Assignments
The amount of time that it will take you to prepare all the readings carefully, to write the weekly reflections, and to write the required four papers will vary from student to student. In general, I would expect that the range of hours it will take many students will be in the range of 8 to 12 hours per week.
Course Schedule

Week 1:
Tuesday May 16, Plato's *Meno* (70a-86c)
Thursday May 18, Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* Selections from Books 2 & 3

Week 2:
Tuesday May 23, Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* Selections Books 3 & 4
Thursday May 25, Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* Selections Books 3, 4, & 5

Week 3:
Tuesday May 30, Plato's *Republic*, Selections from Books 2, 4, 9, & 10
Thursday June 1, Plato's *Republic*, Selections from Books 2, 4, 9, & 10

Week 4:
Tuesday June 6, Augustine's *Confessions*, Selections from Books 7 & 8
Thursday June 8, Kant's *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, First Section

Week 5:
Tuesday June 13, Nietzsche's *On the Genealogy of Morality*, First Treatise

Week 6:
Tuesday June 20, Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, Selections
Tuesday June 20, Martin Luther King Jr. "Letter from the Birmingham Jail"
Thursday June 22, Final Exam

Written Work
Summer Session students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed and submitted in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA or CLA style per your instructor’s requirements. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation and spelling. For writing support, please contact the Connors Family Learning Center.

Attendance
Students are expected to attend every class session. This is especially important in this course because a considerable part of the learning takes place in the classroom through the discussions we will be having with each other in every class. The general policy on missed classes is as follows: you may have one excused or unexcused absence without it affecting your overall grade (although it is strongly suggested that you avoid missing even one class since it is essential to your understanding of the material). Nevertheless, I expect, should you miss a class, that out of courtesy to me you would email me about your absence. More than one missed class will begin to affect your overall average. If you miss three or more classes, I will have to take this up with the associate dean of the college and discuss what might be the proper response to take under those conditions including the possibility that you consider withdrawing from the class.

Consistent with BC’s commitment to creating a learning environment that is respectful of persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing their academic status. Students are responsible for reviewing course syllabi as soon as possible, and for communicating with the instructor promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. Students are responsible for completing all class requirements for days missed due to conflicts with religious holidays.
**Accommodation and Accessibility**
Boston College is committed to providing accommodations to students, faculty, staff and visitors with disabilities. Specific documentation from the appropriate office is required for students seeking accommodation in Summer Session courses. Advanced notice and formal registration with the appropriate office is required to facilitate this process. There are two separate offices at BC that coordinate services for students with disabilities:

- **The Connors Family Learning Center (CFLC)** coordinates services for students with LD and ADHD.
- **The Disabilities Services Office (DSO)** coordinates services for all other disabilities.

Find out more about BC’s commitment to accessibility at [www.bc.edu/sites/accessibility](http://www.bc.edu/sites/accessibility).

**Scholarship and Academic Integrity**
Students in Summer Session courses must produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to cite references is plagiarism. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on exams or assignments, or submitting the same material or substantially similar material to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work. Please see the [Boston College policy on academic integrity](#) for more information.