

ETHICS

PHIL-UA 40
Summer Session II
MTWR 3:30-5:05

Instructor:

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Rm 412, 3-5 Washington Place

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Please acquire copies of the books listed below. All other materials will be made available on the course 'NYU Classes' site.

John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*, in *On Liberty and Utilitarianism* (New York: Bantam Books, 1993)

Aristotle, *The Nichomachean Ethics*, trans. Roger Crisp (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000)

Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, trans. Mary Gregor (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998)

The reading assignments are listed below. I will set a due date for each assignment as we go along.

Unit 1: Aristotle's *Nichomachen Ethics*

Books I and II (pp. 3-36), **to be read by Tuesday, July 9**

Book III sections 1-9, Book VI sections 12-13, Book VII sections 1-10 (pp. 37-54, 115-118, 119-136), **July 16**

Book VII sections 11-14, Book X sections 1-8 (pp. 136-142, 183-199), **July 16**

Plato, *The Republic*, Book 1, 384c to the end of Book I, **July 17**

Unit 2: John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*

Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 153-185), **July 18**

Chapters 3 and 4 (pp. 186-205), **July 22**

Chapter 5 (pp. 206-236), **July 22**

Unit 3: David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Understanding*

Book II, Part III, Section III, **July 29**

Book III, Part I, Sections I and II, **July 30**

Book III, Part II, Section I, **July 31**

Book III, Part III, Section I, **August 1**

Unit 4: Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*

David Velleman's "Reading Kant's Groundwork", **August 5**

Preface and Section I, **August 5**

Section II, **August 7**

Section III, **August 12**

Unit 4: Moral Objectivity and Moral Disagreement

Philippa Foot, "Morality as a System of Hypothetical Imperatives"

Gilbert Harman and Judith Jarvis Thomson, *Moral Relativism and Moral Objectivity*

Part 1 sections 1-3 (pp. 1-44)

Part 3 section 10 (pp. 188-217)

REQUIREMENTS

1. Three unannounced in-class quizzes. Your best two each count for 10 % of your grade.
2. Two short assignments on units 2 and 4, respectively, which count for 20 % of your grade each.
3. A take-home exam due on August 16, which counts for 40 % of your grade.

COURSE POLICIES

1. All assigned work must be handed in to receive a passing grade in the course.
2. Papers should be handed in on time. If there is an emergency and you need extra time, please contact me in advance to request an extension. Papers handed in late without an extension will be graded down in proportion to their lateness, and no such papers will be accepted at all after the last class on August 16.
3. Any student who is found to have cheated on an examination or to have committed plagiarism will receive an F grade in the course and the matter will be referred to the office of the relevant dean for consideration of further disciplinary action. A more detailed description of the College of Arts and Science's policies concerning cheating and plagiarism can be found online at <http://cas.nyu.edu/object/bulletin1012.ug.academicpolicies> under the heading "Academic Integrity".

OFFICE HOURS

Feel free to schedule a time to meet with me anytime.