

# Philosophy 3500: Ethics

## Core Course Information

(This is not a syllabus. The official syllabus will be made available by the first day of class)

Class Time and Location: M, W, F 10:45 AM - 11:35 AM, GC3680

Instructor: Eric Hutton

Office: CTIHB 425

Phone: 801-581-7320

Course website: Canvas

Office Hours: Fri 1:00–2:00pm or by appointment

E-mail: [eric.hutton@utah.edu](mailto:eric.hutton@utah.edu)

(E-mail is a better way to reach me than by phone.)

**Course Description:** This course focuses on the three dominant theories in moral philosophy today: consequentialism, deontology, and virtue ethics. Some of the issues covered are: right action, the good life, respect for persons, the concept of virtue, and the process of moral decision-making and moral justification.

**Pre-requisite:** None, but prior courses in philosophy are highly recommended.

**Course Objectives:** By the end of the course, students will:

- 1) Be able to describe some of the most important theories proposed by various philosophers in the field of ethics.
- 2) Understand what is involved in the application of these theories to concrete cases.
- 3) Be able to articulate some of the strengths and weaknesses of these theories.
- 4) Be able to identify, analyze, construct, and criticize philosophical arguments.

**Texts:** All readings are on e-reserve at Marriott Library. A will be set up on the course homepage on Canvas that will take you directly to the list of readings.

Course Requirements:

- A) Students are expected to finish each assigned reading before the class meeting on that assignment. Students are also expected to bring the assigned reading to class with them.
- B) Participation at class meetings: students are expected to participate in discussion in class. For in-class discussion, raising thoughtful questions, responding insightfully to remarks by other students, answering questions from the instructor, and reading aloud (when asked by the instructor) will all count towards fulfilling this requirement. Students who are absent from class are still responsible for knowing what was said both during lecture *and* discussion, so if you miss class, be sure to get notes from a classmate.
- C) Participation in online discussions: the instructor will post topics for discussion on Canvas at regular periods during the term. Students must participate in at least 3 different online discussion topics initiated by the instructor. Grading will be pass/fail. Further directions will be posted on Canvas.

- D) In-class exams: three in-class essay exams on 9/21, 10/18, and 11/16. Make-up exams will be given only in cases where a student misses the exam because of a serious medical issue or family emergency, or where the student is participating in an officially sanctioned University activity or the like (see policy [6-100-III-O](#) on attendance). Students requesting to take a make-up exam on such grounds should be prepared to submit documentation of those grounds.
- E) Final exam: a final, longer essay exam on 12/14. The same policy for make-up exams applies to the final exam.

Grading:

Participation at class meetings, 15%; Participation in online discussions, 5%; Exams, 20% each.