

PHILOSOPHICAL ETHICS - 15007 - PHIL 3000 – R13

TF 11:30 am - 12:45 pm KE209

Gyula Klima

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Course description

This course is devoted to a detailed discussion of Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, some selected readings from Augustine, Boethius, Anselm, Aquinas, and Kant's *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*. Some contemporary readings will also be assigned, mostly for the sake of illustrating the contrast with the traditional approaches to the same issues discussed in the course. The course will consider issues such as the Aristotelian conception of human happiness, virtue and character, moral agency, freedom, and responsibility, medieval Aristotelian and Augustinian conceptions of the objectivity of values and the freedom of the will, as well as the Kantian ideas of duty as the law of freedom, the categorical imperative, and the possibility of a metaphysics of morals. The central theme of the discussions connecting these issues will be the analysis of the diverse ways in which the philosophers considered strove to establish the objectivity of moral value, assessing the applicability of their ideas in the context of moral and legal discourse in a modern multicultural society.

Readings:

Aristotle: *The Nicomachean Ethics*, (NE) Chicago, 2012; ISBN 9780199213610

Medieval Philosophy: Essential Readings with Commentary, (MP) Ed.: G. Klima, et al., Blackwell, 2007, ISBN: 9781405135658

Kant: *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, (GMM) Hackett, 1981; ISBN 9780872201668

Online auxiliary materials (click on the underlined items in the schedule below).

Requirements:

Attendance, participation in the discussions, 3 in-class tests, and a written final.

Schedule

Date	Topic (Reading)
01/17	Happiness and good life; is there one Ultimate Good for all?
01/20	The subject matter of philosophical ethics (NE I 1-3)
01/24	Human happiness as such (NE I 4-8)
01/27	Happiness and virtue (NE I 9-13)
01/31	Virtue and character (NE II 1-9)
02/03	Moral virtue, freedom and responsibility (NE III 1-5)
02/07	Moral virtues (NE III 6-12) (NE IV 1-9) + Justice (NE V 1-11)
02/10	Preparation for the test
02/14	Test #1
02/17	Intellectual virtues, and wisdom (NE VI 1-13)
02/24	No class (Rome conference)
02/28	<u>Being and goodness I</u> (MP 303-325) <u>De Bono</u>
03/03	<u>Being and goodness II</u> (MP 303-325) <u>De Bono</u>
03/07	<u>Augustine</u> on the “divided will” (MP 325-330)
03/10	<u>Anselm</u> on the goodness of the will (MP 337-348)
03/21	<u>Medieval meta-ethics</u> (contrast: <u>Speciesism</u> – Singer)
03/24	Preparation for the test
03/28	Test #2
03/31	The <u>end of scholasticism</u> and the <u>emergence of modernity</u>
04/04	<u>Kant</u> vs. traditional metaphysics: the critique of pure reason
04/07	<u>Kant</u> vs. traditional metaphysics: the critique of practical reason
04/11	The categorical imperative (GMM ##387-405)
04/18	The categorical imperative (GMM ##406-421)
04/21	Duties and imperatives (GMM ## 422-439)
04/18	The autonomy of the will (GMM ## 440-445)
04/21	The metaphysics of morals (GMM ##446-463)
04/25	Test #3
04/28	Discussion of the test
05/02	Preparation for the final
Finals	May 9-16