

PHI 112 – Ethics
Southwest Colorado Community College – Spring 2017
Syllabus Addendum and Ethics Course Schedule

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PHI 112 -Ethics Course Schedule

(Subject to Change)

Spring 2017

Week 1:

- Tues., January 17 – Welcome, Syllabus, and Course Overview and Introduction
- Thurs., January 19 – Ethics in Short Fiction: Le Guin, “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas” (sup.) and Tellez, “Lather and Nothing Else” (sup.)

Week 2: Consequentialism

- Tues., January 24 – Mill, “Utilitarianism,” (Ethics 118-129)
- Thurs., January 26 – **Response #1 - Personal Introductions Due**, Mill, Continued. (Ethics 118-129)

Week 3: Consequentialism Continued

- Tues., January 31 – Pojman, “Strengths and Weaknesses of Utilitarianism,” (Ethics 130-138)
- Thurs., February 2 – Thompson, “The Trolley Problem,” (Ethics 446-448) and Thompson, “Turning the Trolley,” (Ethics 449-452)

Week 4: Step Back look at ethics and Challenge of Relativism

- Tues., February 7 – Rachels, “The Challenge of Cultural Relativism,” (Ethics 54-66)
- Thurs., February 9 – **Quiz #1 Due**, Reagan, “How Not to Answer Moral Questions,” (Ethics 45-49) and Cahn, “God and Morality” (Ethics 50-53)

Week 5: Kant & Deontology

- Tues., February 14 – Kant, “The Categorical Imperative,” (Ethics 102-113)

- Thurs., February 16 – **Response #2 Due**, Kant, Continued and O'Neill, "A Simplified Account of Kant's Ethics," (Ethics 114-117).

Week 6: Deontology and Challenge of Egoism

- Tues., February 21 – Nagel, "Right and Wrong," (Ethics 67-70)
- Thurs., February 23 – Rachels, "Egoism and Moral Skepticism," (Ethics 71-82)

Week 7: Virtue Ethics

- Tues., February 28 – **Paper Proposal #1 Due**, Short Reading (TBD)
- Thurs., March 2 – Driver, "Virtue Ethics," (Ethics 145-147) & Buddhism (TBD)

Week 8: Virtue Ethics

- Tues., March 7 – Aristotle, "The Nature of Virtue," (Ethics 139-144) & Confucianism (TBD)
- Thurs., March 9 – No Class Meeting. **Quiz #2 Due**

Week 9: Euthanasia or Capital Punishment or Life/Death (TBD by class)

- Tues., March 14 – Readings TBD based on topic selected by class
- Thurs., March 16 – **Argument Paper #1 Due**, Readings TBD based on topic selected by class

~~~~~**Spring Break (Mon, March 20 through Sat., March 25)**~~~~~

Week 10: Environmental Ethics

- Tues., March 28 – Sober, "Philosophical Problems for Environmentalism," (Ethics, 398-419)
- Thurs., March 30 – Regan, "We Are What We Eat," (Ethics 390-397)

Week 11: Animal Rights and World Hunger

- Tues., April 4 – **Quiz #3 Due**, Regan, "The Case for Animal Rights," (Ethics 360-372) and Cohen, "Why Animals Have no Rights," (Ethics 373-377) and Warren, "Speaking of Animal Rights," (Ethics (378-388)).
- Thurs., April 6 – Singer, "Famine Affluence, and Morality" (Ethics 264-273)

Week 12: Social Contract and Torture

- Tues., April 11 – Hobbes, "The Social Contract," (Ethics 154-161)

- Thurs., April 13 – **Response #3 Due**, Shue, “Torture,” (Ethics 296-309) and Hill, “Ticking Bombs, Torture, and the Analogy with Self-Defense,” (Ethics 310-323).

Week 13: Justice, Ethics, and Terrorism

- Tues., April 18 – **Paper Proposal #2 Due**, Rawls, “A Theory of Justice,” (Ethics 162-167)
- Thurs., April 20 – Walzer, “Terrorism,” (Ethics 280-288) and McPherson “Is Terrorism Distinctively Wrong?” (Ethics 289-294)

Week 14: Cases: Abortion or Pornography or Affirmative Action (TBD by class)

- Tues., April 25 – Readings TBD based on topic selected by class
- Thurs., April 27 – **Quiz #4 Due**, Readings TBD based on topic selected by class,

Week 15: Bias, Care, and the Scope of Justice

- Tues., May 2 – Calhoun, “Gender Bias,” (Ethics 168-172) Held, “The Ethics of Care,” (Ethics 148-153)
- Thurs., May 4 – **Argument Paper #2 Due**; King, “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” (Ethics 27-43)

Week 16: Ethics and the Good Life?

- Tues., May 9 – Wolf, “Moral Saints,” (Ethics 173-183)
- Thurs., May 11 – **Response #4 Due**, Class wrap up and Concluding Discussion

**This course schedule is subject to change.**

Abbreviations used in this schedule:

Ethics – Course Textbook: Cahn, Exploring Ethics: An Introductory Anthology, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.,

“Sup.” – Supplementary reading found on D2L and/or distributed in class

“TBD” – To Be Determined. Assigned readings will be determined at least one week in advance.

Note: Suggested readings could be offered as the class develops. They are not required for this class (these reading will not be on quizzes), but could provide helpful content for writing papers.