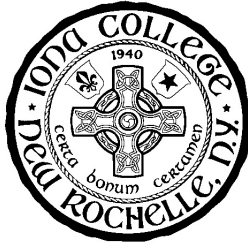


DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

IONA COLLEGE



PHL 210 A & B

Moral Philosophy

Spring 2012

A Tu-Th-Fri 10–10:52 Doorley 226

B Tu-Th-Fri 11:00–11:52 Doorley 226

Dr. Adam M. Goldstein

Spellman 205 agoldstein@iona.edu

Ofc Hr Tu-Th-Fr 12-1 (914) 637-2717

<http://www.iona.edu/faculty/agoldstein>

In this course, we address the tension between doing what's right and doing what one wants by considering Plato's question, Why be good? The strategy is to look at the moral theories found in four of the most important texts in the canon of moral philosophy: Plato's *Republic*, Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, Mill's *Utilitarianism*, and Kant's *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*. These texts are sources of central approaches: virtue ethics, utilitarianism, and deontology.

Course Texts

All assigned texts are posted on Dr. Goldstein's web site.

Evaluation

Course readings Students are required to complete all assigned course readings in time for the appropriate class meeting. Consult the schedule of course readings and assignments below. No particular grade weight is assigned to course readings, but students that do not keep up will most likely not be able to make good contributions to class discussion or succeed on exams. If it becomes apparent that the class as a whole is not consistently keeping up with the readings, random quizzes will be instituted.

Attendance & Participation (20% of the grade) The attendance and participation grade is intended to measure the student's degree of commitment to and engagement in the course. Assessment is qualitative, and is based on a composite, holistic assessment taking into account both attendance and class participation. If a student is in general on time and in class and accomplishes the aims stated in the lists below, he or she will increase his or her prospects for success in attendance and participation. Students taking a leadership role or showing extraordinary or exceptional engagement with the course will in general receive higher marks in the attendance and participation grade.

Students are required to be present and on time for every class meeting, and to remain for the full class period. Student athletes must present written documentation of their participation to Dr. Goldstein if they wish for their participation in these events to be given consideration when determining their attendance grade. The same is true of those who have missed class due to a medical or family emergency. The College's attendance policies, stated in the most recent edition of the *Iona College Undergraduate Catalog*, will be strictly adhered to. Students absent nine or more times will fail the course, being awarded a grade of "FA." Absences for athletic events and in general other events that are not emergencies will not be considered for the purpose of assessing whether a student fails the course with an "FA" grade, that is, missing 9 or more courses, no matter what the reason, warrants the "FA." No documentation concerning class meetings missed by a student (doctor's notes or letters from the athletics department, for example) will be accepted after the last class meeting.

Students will be evaluated on how well they accomplish the following.

- Preparing for class by bringing the assigned reading and having shown strong evidence of having read and thought about it
- Paying attention to Dr. Goldstein and others when they are speaking
- Speaking out only when called on, after raising one's hand
- Answering questions in an informative, engaged manner, when asked by Dr. Goldstein—"I don't know" is generally not adequate
- Volunteering questions, comments, and ideas
- Responding to others in class when they volunteer questions, comments, or ideas
- When working in a small group, contributing to answering the question or solving the problem assigned to the group by talking about it with others in the group, doing research in a text or online, writing, or planning what the group will say when presenting results
- Working until the end of the class period on group assignments, and completing as much of the work assigned as possible on the day the work is assigned

Any activity that interferes with one's own learning, the learning of others, or Dr. Goldstein's ability to teach is not permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, the following.

- Using phones, laptops, or any other device for purposes not directly related to class activities
- Becoming absorbed in one's computer screen, and so becoming passive and unresponsive
- Looking over a classmate's shoulder, across the aisle, etc., in order to look at his or her computer, phone, or other device, or offering the opportunity for others to do so
- Having earphones in one's ears, wearing headphones, or listening to any kind of amplified sound
- During class meetings in the lecture-discussion format, engaging in private conversations with classmates

4- PHL 210: Moral Philosophy

- Speaking without having been called on or having raised one's hand
- Reading or doing work for other classes
- Planning one's schedule or making to-do lists

Those whose distracting activities become a problem during a particular class session may be asked to leave that class session, and may be referred to the appropriate campus services, for instance, services aimed at helping students work at a college level or cope with college life. The same is the case for students who engage in a pattern of distracting activities from one class meeting to another. Uncivil, hurtful behavior is not permitted in class. In the case of such behavior, in addition to the kinds of services just mentioned, campus security will be contacted.

Midterm exam (30%) A midterm exam will cover material from the first half of the course. The date of this exam is indicated below on the schedule of readings and assignments. No make-up exams will be given, even in cases in which an extenuating circumstance such as a severe and sudden unpredictable illness can be documented and confirmed as having occurred at a time and place and in a manner that would prevent a student from attending or being adequately prepared for the exam. In such cases, the weight of the midterm exam will be added to the weight of the final exam when calculating a student's grade. Students unable to present appropriate documentation for missing the midterm will fail it with a score of 0 (zero). Accommodations a students requiring an alternative setting in which to take his or her exam will be made, so long as the need for such a setting is adequately documented.

Final exam (50%) A cumulative final exam will be administered during the final exam period assigned to the course by the registrar. Under no circumstances will a make-up exam be administered. This is so even in cases of severe and sudden illness such as those mentioned above in connection with the midterm. In such cases, if adequately documented, the student's grade will be calculated by adding the weight of the final exam to the weight of the midterm exam, this composite weighted score being counted instead of separate midterm and final exam scores. Adequate documentation must be provided immediately after the final exam period with the aim of doing so before the other students' exams are graded. Students who do not take the final exam and are unable to provide appropriate documentation will fail the exam with a score of 0 (zero). Iona College policy requires that students be physically present on campus for the scheduled exam period for each of their classes. No exceptions will be made in

this course for violations of this policy, including exceptions for holiday travel plans. Accommodations for a student requiring an alternative setting in which to take his or her exam will be made, provided that the need for such a setting is adequately documented.

Academic Integrity

A student suffers a lapse in academic integrity if he or she turns in, under his or her own name, work that is authored, in whole or in part, by someone else, but does not attribute that work to its author. This is called plagiarism, or, in the case of answers on homework or exams, simply, cheating. A student's intentions are not taken into account when determining whether he or she has plagiarized or cheated: whether a student meant to do either is irrelevant to the determination of whether he or she did in fact plagiarize or cheat. A student plagiarizing or cheating in this class will *fail the course*, that is, *receive an "F" grade for this class*. Students will not be given a chance to make up or drop assignments on which they have cheated: the student fails the course, not just the assignment.

Course & teacher evaluation

Iona College now uses an on-line course and teacher evaluation system ("CTE"), which is administered by a corporate subcontractor, not by the College itself. Data are confidential; no instructor will be able to identify which of his or her students is responsible for any response entered into the system. The corporate subcontractor will provide the College and the instructor with information derived from the aggregation of student input. Students using the CTE system will also be provided with some of this information. The College and its faculty value students' feedback about courses and their instructors, which is essential to the College's ongoing effort to improve instruction and to assess its course offerings. Students will be notified by email about how and when the CTE will be administered.

Schedule of Readings & Assignments

1	Jan. 17	Course introduction. Plato.
2	24	—
3	31	—
4	Feb. 07	Aristotle
5	14	—
6	21	No class Tues.
7	28	—
8	Mar. 06	Midterm Exam. Fri. Mar. 09
		<i>Spring break</i>
9	20	Mill
10	27	—
11	Apr. 03	No class.
12	10	—
13	17	Kant
14	24	—
15	May 01	—

Final Exam.

Time & date TBA. In the usual classroom.

Appendix: Course Learning Goals

Upon completion of this course, it is expected that every student will be able to do the following.

1. Understand the nature of moral reasoning and the metaphysical and epistemological foundations upon which that reasoning relies.
2. Know some moral positions and arguments in favor of and against those positions.
3. Recognize, express, and analyze arguments in philosophical texts.
4. Read and interpret philosophical texts.
5. Summarize and explain difficult ideas and concepts.
6. Write philosophical essays that have theses and reasonable supporting arguments.
7. Understand different intellectual perspectives and thus be able to understand that different people will describe a moral issue in different ways.
8. Develop a sense of the value and limits of philosophy.
9. Develop a reflective attitude and sensitivity to the subtleties and complexities of moral judgments.

Each of the assignments, together with course lectures and discussion, contribute to the accomplishment of each of these learning goals.