

Steven Schlesinger Philosophy101: Ethics Fall 2011

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Office hours:

MWF 7:30-8 & 11-11:30 in A&L 436

T-TH 2-2:30 & 3-3:30 in A&L 436

Required text: Ethics-Discovering right and wrong, by Pojman and Fieser

Course Objectives: The aim of this course is to acquaint the student with the basic principles of several influential ethical systems, and to show how the principles can be applied to common ethical dilemmas.

Learning outcomes: 1) Students should be able to describe the main tenets of major ethical theories in essay form. 2) Students should be able to identify specific moral problems and apply these theories to them.

Sequence of topics/readings:

- 1) Challenges to Ethics-a) Relativism-chapter 2 b) Egoism-Chapter 6
- 2) Religion and Ethics- Chapter 11
- 3) Utilitarian Ethics-Chapter 7
- 4) Kantian Ethics- Chapter 8
- 5) Virtue Ethics- Chapter 9. Trotsky and Virtue-Handout in class.

Each of these 5 sections will finish with an in class essay test worth 20% of your grade. Exact date of the exam will be emailed to you one week in advance.

During your Final exam you may retake 2 of the 5 exams at one hour each—the new grade will replace the previous grade.

Religious Observances:

The University Policy File includes the following statement on Absence for Religious Observances: By the end of the second week of classes, students should notify the instructors of affected courses of planned absences for religious observances. Instructors shall reasonably accommodate students who notify them in advance of planned absences for religious observances. California Education Code 89320 states: The Trustees of the California State University shall require that each state university, in administering any test or examination, to permit any student who is eligible to undergo the test or examination to do so, without penalty, at a time when that activity would not violate the student's religious creed. Please notify me by the end of the second week of classes if you plan to be absent for religious observance.

Academic Misconduct:

All students are expected to follow the administrative rules and standards of conduct detailed in the San Diego State University catalog. Students are expected to submit only their own work on papers and examinations. While you may discuss the assignments with others in the class, collaboration on the preparation of a paper is not permitted. Unless the assignment specifically directs otherwise, papers should be based entirely on your own study of the assigned material and not on secondary sources of any kind.

Turning in someone else's work, whether from printed sources or material available electronically, as if it were your own constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is an act of intellectual dishonesty. The academic consequences of plagiarism range from failure for the tainted assignment to failure for the course, depending on the seriousness of the offense. All such offenses are reported to the college dean, who will impose additional administrative consequences, which can include suspension or expulsion from the university.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to the following: turning in another student's paper as if it were your own; collaboration with another student in writing the paper; quoting, paraphrasing, or borrowing ideas from published or unpublished material written by someone other than yourself, without specific acknowledgment of the source.

It is your responsibility to know and observe all the SDSU rules concerning academic integrity and plagiarism. You should familiarize yourself with SDSU Academic Senate Policy on Plagiarism (http://its.sdsu.edu/turnitin/pdf/Plagiarism_AcadSen.pdf). If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, how to credit the work and ideas of others properly, how to evaluate sources for quality and reliability, or any other related issues, please feel free to see me to discuss the matter.