HISTORY OF ETHICS
PHIL 140
University of California, Santa Cruz
Department of Philosophy
Summer 2016

Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 – 4:30 PM in Natural Science Annex 103

Instructor

David Donley
Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 12:30 – 1:00 PM & by appointment
Email: ddonley@ucsc.edu

Course Description

What is the good life? How does happiness relate to the good life? And what is happiness? How do we cultivate a flourishing existence? How do we live a meaningful life? Do certain character traits foster a good, meaningful life? How should we understand pain and struggle in our lives? What role does friendship play in living a good life? How does moral theory relate to moral practice for living a good life? To attempt to answer these questions, we will closely read and contemplate insights offered by Aristotle in Nicomachean Ethics and Friedrich Nietzsche in The Gay Science. Additionally, we will engage with related writings on these questions from Ancient Greek philosophy, existentialism, and social psychology. Furthermore, we will examine examples from film, literature, and poetry that provide alternative mediums for the insights considered. Through this exploration, this course aims to engender critical reflection on our own assumptions about the nature of the good life and morality.

Required Texts


Other required readings will be available as PDFs on Google Classroom.
Course Requirements

1. Two Short Papers (50% of grade; each paper is 25% of grade)
   • Minimum 1500 words; Maximum 2000 words.
   • Prompt and writing guidelines can be found on Google Classroom.
   • Due Dates: August 14 and August 28 by 11:59 PM.

2. Participation (25% of grade)
   • Attendance is mandatory for lecture. Given that summer session classes are only five weeks, attendance in every class is necessary to keep with the material in order to be well prepared for the papers. More than one unexcused absence will result in the loss of the entire participation grade.
   • Active participation in class discussions and well-developed free writes is necessary to receive full credit for the participation grade.
   • The use of cell phones, computers, tablets, or other electronic devices for non-DRC related purposes will result in the loss of the entire participation grade.

3. Reading Response Journal and Discussion Questions (25% of grade)
   • Each student will complete journal entries for the assigned reading for each class session. Journal entries need to demonstrate critical reflection and engagement with the readings.
   • Along with journal entries, each student must submit discussion questions for each class session that are inspired by or related to the readings for that class session.

Other Course Policies

• **Lateness policy:** Late assignments and make-up presentations are *not* allowed, except for documented emergencies/illness, DRC accommodations, or conflicts with religious observance. Please notify the instructor in advance of your need for an exception to course deadlines and attendance requirements.

• **Email policy:** Please direct any questions you may have regarding assignments, evaluative feedback, or administrative concerns to the instructor. Note regarding all email correspondence: Please be kind and considerate. Because substantive philosophical questions about readings, arguments, or ideas often require back and forth discussion, they are best answered in person—during office hours, or class discussion.
  o When sending an email include “PHIL 140” in the subject line. As I receive many emails from different offices and organizations on campus on a daily basis, I have created a filter for emails containing “PHIL 140,” so that I may get to student emails quicker.

• **Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course!** If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me after class or during my office hours, preferably within the first week of the Summer session. The sooner you let me know your situation, the sooner I can assist you. Contact DRC at 831-459-2089 or by email at [drc@ucsc.edu](mailto:drc@ucsc.edu). For more information please visit UCSC’s Disability Resource Center homepage: [http://drc.ucsc.edu/index.shtml](http://drc.ucsc.edu/index.shtml).

• **Plagiarism policy:** You are responsible for being familiar with UCSC’s policies on
academic honesty (http://www1.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/index.html). Proper sourcing and good scholarship are expected. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If you have any questions or concerns about how to avoid plagiarism and ensure the originality of your work, please ask us.

- UCLA has helpful tips on avoiding plagiarism: http://unitproj.library.ucla.edu/col/bruinsuccess/

Summer Session Key Dates

August 1 – Drop Deadline
August 12 – Withdrawal Deadline

Discussion and Reading Schedule (tentative and subject to change)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>READING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td><em>Nicomachean Ethics</em>, Book I</td>
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<td></td>
<td>July 26 <em>Nicomachean Ethics</em>, Books II and III</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td><em>Nicomachean Ethics</em>, Book VIII and IX</td>
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<td>Aug 4  <em>Nicomachean Ethics</em>, Book X</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td><em>The Gay Science</em>, Book I</td>
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<td>Aug 9  <em>The Gay Science</em>, Book II and III (up to #113)</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td><em>The Gay Science</em>, Book III (#114 – #275)</td>
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<td>Aug 16 <em>The Gay Science</em>, Book IV</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td><em>The Gay Science</em>, Book V (up to #356)</td>
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