

ETHICS - HUM 216-770

Instructor Information:

Peter Han

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Office hours by appointment

Course Description

This course introduces and critically evaluates the principal Western ethical theories up to the twentieth century. We will apply these theories to contemporary real-life issues in class discussions. In the process, our study of Western morals will come in contact with some non-Western ethical perspectives.

Course objectives

- Learn the history of Western moral thought
- Learn the basic types of ethical inquiry (not unique to the West)
- Learn the major Western ethical traditions, and of their relevance today
- Learn to compare the strengths and limitations of various ethical systems
- Learn to apply ethical theories to contemporary issues and personal questions
- Learn to think critically about social, political, cultural, religious, and economic issues from a philosophical perspective

Disciplinary Policy

Plagiarism: *“Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation or use by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. Plagiarism includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.”*(ECC Catalogue)

You may not directly quote, or even summarize the work of the author, without giving credit. If you're at all unsure if you may be plagiarizing, please consult with me before submitting your paper. Those who still choose to plagiarize will fail the assignment and may also fail the course.

Cheating: *“Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes or examinations; (2) use of dependence on the aid of sources beyond those permitted or authorized by the instructor in writing papers,*

preparing reports, solving problems or carrying out other assignments; or (3) the acquisition, without permission, of exams or other academic material belonging to a member of the college faculty or staff.”(ECC Catalogue)

Cheating includes plagiarizing other students' work. Students caught cheating will fail the course.

Course Requirements:

Study Questions

Discussion Posts

Project

First of all, there are *no exams* in this course. Instead, the course is demanding in terms of reading and writing. The bulk of the assignments are reflection-based questions designed to develop and sharpen critical thinking skills.

STUDY QUESTIONS

We will cover eight chapters throughout the semester. Two weeks are dedicated to each chapter. Students are required to answer *all* of the chapter's *Study Questions* listed in the Course Schedule.

DISCUSSION POSTS

Students are required to submit a discussion post per chapter (see Course Schedule). For each chapter, I will post a question in the chapter's designated discussion forum. You are required to respond to these questions. In Week 1, students are required to post two discussion comments; thereafter, only one discussion post per chapter.

PROJECT

The project will be your long-term assignment in the course. It is due at the end of the term. Pick one of the following options and start working on it as soon as possible. The project demands considerable time and thought, so do not put it off until the end of the semester. The project is an individual assignment; students may not work together on a project.

There are 3 project options. Choose one of the following options:

Option 1: Paper on a TV Series

Select one of the series to watch from the list I have provided. You must watch all episodes. Write a 1,500 word paper analyzing the show's moral philosophy (ethics).

Option 2: Paper on a Book (or Comic Series)

Select a book to read from the list I have provided. Write a 1,500 word paper analyzing the show's moral philosophy.

Option 3: Paper on Ethical Films

Select fifteen films to watch from the list I have provided. Write a 1,500 word paper answering several questions.