PHIL 2314ED: Ethics
Syllabus

Fall 2016
Tu 5:30 - 8:15PM
Malloy 024

Maureen Bielinski, MA, Adjunct Professor
Email: bielinm@stthom.edu
Office Hours: MW 11:10-12:00 and by appt.
Office: Tiller 115 (Math Building) Phone: 713-831-7265

Required Texts:


Jensen, Steven J. Living the Good Life. Washington DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2013. 9780872204645


Recommended readings from authors including Plato, Thomas More, and Elizabeth Anscombe will be distributed via email or Blackboard to supplement required reading.

Course Description

This course will treat the fundamental ideas of philosophical ethics, including happiness, action theory and moral evaluation of acts, virtue and vice, along with contemporary ethical issues. We will begin by considering the human good, natural law, and conscience. In the second part of the course, we will consider the four cardinal virtues along with some secondary virtues. In the third part, we will consider the moral evaluation of ethical issues surrounding killing in self-defense, just wars, truth-telling and lying, and contraception.

Assignments and Evaluation

Students will be assigned two papers of 1500-1800 words, which will comprise 40% of the grade. They will also write in-class midterm and final exams, which together will comprise 40% of the grade. Class participation will comprise the remaining 20%. The participation grade will include short daily reading responses (5%), daily pop quizzes (5%), and in-class participation (10%). There will be no makeup quizzes. Absences will adversely affect your grade. Plagiarism will result in failure for the course. Computer and cell phone use is prohibited during class.

The professor reserves the right to edit this syllabus.

Please speak with me in person if you have a documented disability that will impact your work, and register with the Counseling and Disability Services Office in Crooker Center at (713) 525-2169.
Schedule of Readings


Tuesday, Aug 30    Virtues, the Soul, and Happiness: Plato, Republic. Paper 1 Assigned.
    Required: Republic I, II, IV (427e-445e), VI, VII (514-519b), VIII, IX, X (609b-612e)

Tuesday, Sep 6     Fulfillment and the Human Function: Plato and Aristotle.
    Required: NE I, X. 4-9
    Recommended: Jensen, cc. 2, 14. Cf. Plato, Republic I

Tuesday, Sep 20    Happiness, Natural and Supernatural: Aquinas.
    Required:Aquinas, Selections, Aquinas, ST I-II, qq. 1-5; ST II-II, q. 180 a. 2
    Recommended:

Tuesday, Sep 27    Natural Law. Paper 1 Due.
    Required: Aquinas, 643-645 (especially q. 94 aa. 2,4,6), 647-652

Tuesday, Oct 4     Conscience. Voluntary Action.
    Required: Aquinas, 217-238 (De Veritate q. 17), 589-593 (especially ST I-II, q. 19 aa. 5-6); ST I-II, q. 6, a.
    8 (Blackboard); Ratzinger, “Conscience and Truth” (Blackboard)
    Recommended: Anscombe, “Must One Obey One’s Conscience?”; Thomas More, “Dialogue on Con-
    science;” Mark Twain, Huckleberry Finn, ch. 31 (Blackboard)

    Recommended: Selections, Aquinas, ST I-II, qq. 6-17 (Blackboard); 566-574 (ST I-II, qq. 18-20, especially
    18.1-5)

Tuesday, Oct 25    Virtue: Intellectual and Moral. Definitions and Divisions: Aristotle and Aquinas
    Required: Aristotle, NE II. 2-7 Aquinas, 658-70 (ST I-II, qq. 55.4 and q. 56); Jensen, chs. 3, 5, 6, 7

Tuesday, Nov 1     Prudence. Practical Principles.
    Required: Pieper, “Prudence”; Selections ST II-II, qq. 47-56 (Blackboard)
    Recommended: EN, VI.3-8, 13

Tuesday, Nov 8     Justice.
    Required: Pieper, 43-69, 71-113; Selections ST II-II, qq. 57-122 (Blackboard)

Tuesday, Nov 15    Fortitude.
    Required: EN, III.6-9; Selections ST II-II, q. 123-140 (Blackboard); Pieper, 117-141

Tuesday, Nov 22    Temperance. Paper 2 Due.
    Required: EN, III.10-12; Selections ST II-II, q. 123-140 (Blackboard), especially q. 161, 166-167; Pieper,
    145-206

    pose of Sex.
    Required: Jensen, 114-18; 123-135; Selections from O’Keefe, Known From the Things That Are (Black-
    board), Anscombe, “Contraception and Chastity”; “On Contraception and Natural Family Planning”
    Recommended: Anscombe, “War and Murder”; “Mr. Truman’s Degree”; Janet Smith, Text of “Contracep-
    tion, Why Not?”

Dec TBD           Final Exam