

# Syllabus

**Semester: Winter 2022**

**Course:** PHIL102 Introduction to Ethics

**Instructor:** William J. Healey III

**Office:** Zoom Appointments

**Telephone:** FSU Office: 508-215-5792 (I wouldn't even bother calling this number)  
(Primary Phone) Psychoanalysis Office: 617-464-8555

**E-mail (best way to contact me):** whealey@framingham.edu

**DO NOT MESSAGE ME ON CANVAS. You can, but I do not check Canvas messages regularly. I do check my emails regularly.**

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**Course Overview:** This course aims to expose the student to important questions in philosophy and ethics. First we will examine the ethical issues the Ancient Greeks encountered. After this we will do a bit of traveling, over the world and over time. We will visit ethical views from the Hellenistic Age, the Golden Age of Islam, German Idealism, Feminism, Taoism, Buddhism, Psychoanalysis, other Non-Western philosophies, and finally, we will finish the course by looking at some contemporary philosophers within ethics. The aim of this class is not to teach you what the correct ethical view is on any issue, but rather to explore different ways in which one can view an ethical issue.

**Catalog Description:** An exploration of moral reasoning, and the claims of morality on self and society through an assessment of ethical theories, both classical and modern. The course considers topics such as human sexuality and the preservation of integrity in human decision making. The dynamics of self and society and subjects of social responsibility are pursued by focusing attention on issues such as freedom and justice; rights and duty; race, gender, and class; and the meaning of work.

**Grading:**

There will be four grades given to assignments in this course, and each will count for 20% of the total grade. The final 20% is made up from your class participation. You must speak during every class in order to receive the full 20% OR you may participate via writing/e-mail (150 word MINIMUM) which must be sent to me an hour before class starts. If you attend class virtually you also have two ways to get participation points. You can either email me the 150 words BEFORE class, OR you can participate verbally in class. But again, you can always send me a 100+ word write up BEFORE class and get participation points. You can do one option one class, and the other options the next class.

A midterm exam date can be found in the following section and will cover the work we will have done up until this point. There are two papers due in this class, each one being 3-5 pages in length (typewritten, double spaced, 12 pt. font.) The due dates for each paper can be found below. You are required to hand in a rough draft. This is probably your first time taking a philosophy class, and I want to give you the feedback you need to do well on your papers.

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**Required Texts:** *Ethics: The Essential Writings by Gordon Marino*  
Other texts will be available on Canvas.

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### **ATTENDANCE:**

Understanding the content from the lectures is a critical component to your success in this course. It is important that you are present for the lectures, and I expect each student to make a commitment to be in class and to be on time. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class session. **Every absence or tardiness past the third instance will result in the subtraction of three points from the student's average. Exceptions will sometimes be made if you are sick and get approval from the registrar.**

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## Syllabus

Readings must be read PRIOR to class. The syllabus and the readings not in the textbook are posted on Canvas. If you anticipate a busy semester, I suggest reading ahead. If you prefer audiobooks, you are more than welcome to listen to audiobooks, as long as they are audiobooks of the texts assigned and not summaries. There is no way to get an A in this class without reading 90% or more of the readings. You do NOT have to understand the readings. We will be learning how to read philosophy and ethics throughout the semester. Even seasoned philosophers like myself often do not understand a text the first time we read it.

### SEMESTER SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

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- 12/22 **Zoom Class:** Ancient Greece:
- 12/23 Aristotle reading (in book), Canvas Discussion
- 12/26 Epictetus reading (in book), Canvas Discussion
- 12/27 Abelard (on Canvas), Canvas Discussion
- 12/28 ***Paper 1 Due:*** Confucian Ethics (on Canvas), Canvas Discussion
- 12/29 **Zoom Class:** Non-Western Ethics: Lao Tau (on Canvas)
- 12/30 Hindu Ethics (on Canvas), Canvas Discussion
- 1/2 Ibn Tufayl Ethics (on Canvas), Canvas Discussion
- 1/3 Midterm Exam (on Canvas)
- 1/4 Buddhist Ethics (on Canvas), Canvas Discussion
- 1/5 **Zoom Class:** Back to Europe
- 1/6 ***Paper 2 Due:*** Abelard (on Canvas), Canvas Discussion
- 1/9 Mill (in book), Canvas Discussion
- 1/10 **Zoom Class:** Kant (in book), Canvas Discussion
- 1/11 Hegel , Canvas Discussion

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1/12 Rudi (reading on Canvas), Zoom Class

1/13 Simone (reading on Canvas), Canvas Discussion

1/16 Final Exam on Canvas

### **Final Exam: waiting for it to be scheduled**

*You are expected to read the textbook and pay attention to the ideas that the author has laid out in the text. A third to a half of the questions on the mid-term exam and the final exam will be made up of questions that come from the questions in the text. The remainder of the questions on these exams will address content that comes from the lectures.*

*You are allowed to bring any written/printed notes during exams. NO ELECTRONICS. There will be a review class (or portion of a class) to prepare you for each exam.*

### **Assignments:**

*Paper 1 (Expository): Choose a film, tv show, book, or other form of media that demonstrates the philosophy which comes to us in Plato's Allegory of the Cave. Describe how they are similar, and also describe how they are different. Do you agree/disagree with the philosophy present in Plato's Allegory of the Cave? Support your position. You are required to hand in a rough draft for this paper (due date imbedded in course calendar above.) I will give enough feedback for everyone's rough draft so that they can make the necessary adjustments to get a B/A grade. (FOR PAPER 1: You may use a film, show, or book of your choosing, BUT you are also allowed to use any of the films/shows we look at in class.) (3-5 pg, and THREE FULL PAGES is the MINIMUM. 12pt font, double spaced.)*

*Paper 2 (Expository): Choose any philosophy we have gone over in class and apply that philosophy to any MOVIE of your choosing. Do you agree/disagree with that philosophy? Support your claim. You are required to hand in a rough draft for this paper (due date imbedded in course calendar above.) I will give enough feedback for everyone's rough draft so that they can make the necessary adjustments to get a B/A grade. (3-5 pg, and THREE FULL PAGES is the MINIMUM. 12pt font, double spaced.)*

These are not easy assignments. Good papers will require much thought. Don't leave the work until the last minute. For the final drafts: late papers lose a full grade for each day past the due date. Re-writes will not be accepted past the due date.

*Framingham State University offers equal opportunities to all qualified students, including those with disabilities and impairments. The University is committed to making reasonable accommodations as are necessary to ensure that its programs and activities do not discriminate, or have the effect of discriminating, on the basis of disability. Academic Support serves students with learning and psychiatric disabilities as well as students with visual, mobility and hearing impairments. For further information about this, please visit the website at <http://www.framingham.edu/center-for-academic-support-and-advising/disability-services/index.html> or*

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*contact Ms. LaDonna Bridges, Director of Academic Support/Disability Services, in the Center for Academic Support and Advising (CASA) at 508-626-4906 or [lbridges@framingham.edu](mailto:lbridges@framingham.edu).*

### EVALUATION FOR WRITTEN WORK

**Central idea:** The paper will be rated on the degree to which it is focused on a clear and distinct subject. Is the purpose of the paper clear to the reader?

**Support:** The paper will be rated on the degree to which its generalization (thesis) is supported. Are there adequate details to support each of the paper's points?

**Unity:** The paper will be rated on the degree to which it proceeds smoothly and logically from point to point. Are transitions between paragraphs clear? Are paragraphs coherent and logical?

**Introduction:** The paper will be rated on the degree to which the introduction gets the reader's attention and prepares the reader for what is coming. Is there a hook?

**Conclusion:** The paper will be rated on the degree to which the conclusion draws a paper to a close, summarizes the main points, and reemphasizes the paper's purpose.

**Style:** The paper will be rated on the degree to which its sentences reflect a variety of syntactic structures and an appropriate usage of vocabulary. Does the word choice reflect a concern for the audience and the purpose of the paper?

**Usage:** The paper will be rated on its employment of capitalization, spelling, and grammar.

**Punctuation:** The paper will be rated on its employment of punctuation.

### Movie List:

You'll find the movies listed in this class, some places you can find them, and a link to a movie trailer so you can be sure you are watching the correct film

They Live: you'll have to rent, unless you can find another way! Be my guest!

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**Kingdom of Heaven:** You'll have to rent this, although I could find some full versions on YouTube. There is the original theatrical cut which you have to watch, but if you want to watch a better movie then I suggest the longer directors cut.





## Syllabus

**The Martian:** You'll also have to rent this unless you can find another way.



**Kung Fu Panda:** You'll have to rent this as well or find it elsewhere.



## Syllabus

**The Dark Knight:** HBO MAX, and elsewhere



**Good Place Season 2: Episode #5:** Netflix, elsewhere.





## Syllabus

**A Bug's Life:** Disney Plus, elsewhere



**Palm Springs:** Hulu, elsewhere. IF YOU CANNOT get access to this film then watching Groundhog's Day with Bill Murray is acceptable.



## Syllabus

**Brief Encounter:** The link below is to the FULL movie. I have no idea why it is free on YouTube.



## Syllabus

**Sorry to Bother You:** Hulu and elsewhere. Also, the WEIRDEST film you will ever watch.



**Jojo Rabbit:** HBO MAX and elsewhere





## Syllabus

**Big Lebowski:** Peacock (NBC's free steaming service) or elsewhere



**Chi-Raq:** Amazon Prime, and rental on most video on demand services



## Syllabus