

Ethics

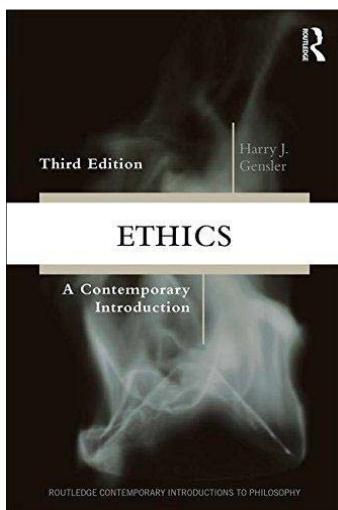
PHIL 181 Ethics
Spring 2018
MWF 8:15 & 9:20 am
Mundelein 205
Fr. Harry J. Gensler, S.J.

Office hours: MWF 10:20-11:20 am in Crown 469
Phone: 440-544-6750 (rings all my phones, can text)
E-mail: hgensler@luc.edu
Web: <http://www.harryhiker.com>
Homework: <http://www.harryhiker.com/hw>

This course is about the foundations of ethics. We'll focus on the nature of morality and how to reason and argue about ethical issues. Philosophers differ much on these topics; some take ethics to be about social conventions or feelings, while others base it on religion or reason.

In this course, we'll wrestle with some of life's deepest questions, learn to think better about morality, and sharpen general thinking skills.

Our text is *Ethics: A Contemporary Introduction*, third edition, by Harry J. Gensler (Routledge 2018).



Our course has four parts:

1. Three popular views of morality: cultural relativism, subjectivism, supernaturalism.
2. Three philosophical views of morality: intuitionism, emotivism, prescriptivism.
3. An approach to moral rationality that emphasizes consistency and the golden rule.
4. Consequentialist and nonconsequentialist views of duty, and a synthesis chapter applying all the views to abortion.

We'll apply the various views to issues like racism, global warming, and moral education.

Course Requirements

Do **READINGS** by assigned dates. I suggest that you work through the study questions, but you don't have to write out the answers. I'll display homework assignments each class and also have them on the Web at: <http://www.harryhiker.com/hw>

Do short assigned **REACTION PAPERS** (a page or so). For these, don't do outside reading or read further than assigned. These are graded as "check" (+0), "check plus" (+½), "check minus" (-½), or "not done" (-1); I won't accept papers more than a class late.

Do **COMPUTER EXERCISES** on the readings. You're required to get at least 90 on each exercise; for each exercise not done at this level, your corresponding oral exam score is lowered by 2 points. Send me your scores just before the corresponding exam.

Take four 10-minute **ORAL EXAMS** (Feb 5-8, Feb 28-Mar 2, Apr 4-6, and Apr 27-May 3). Each oral counts for 25% of your grade.

ATTEND CLASS. You can miss 5 classes without this itself hurting your grade (these 5

are for sickness, funerals, etc.). After that, each unexcused absence subtracts one point from your final course average. You can be excused for university functions. Perfect attendance will add a four point bonus to your final course average.

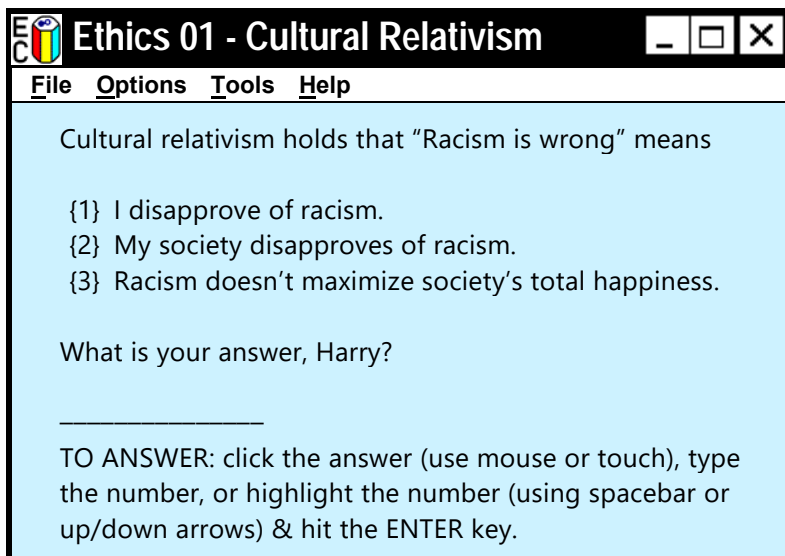
I use this grading scale to convert numbers into letters: A = 90s (93 or above = A, 90-92 = A-), B = 80s (87-89 = B+, 83-86 = B, 80-82 = B-), C = 70s (77-79 = C+, 73-76 = C, 70-72 = C-), D = 60s (67-69 = D+, 60-66 = D), F = 50s or below.

To figure out your **COURSE AVERAGE**, average your four oral-exam scores and then add any bonus/penalty for reaction papers and attendance.

No reading or use of electronic devices is allowed during class.

Students seeking academic accommodations for a disability must in the first week meet with Services for Students with Disabilities (Sullivan 117) and then meet with me about accommodations.

EthiCola →
computer →
exercises →



Ethics 01 - Cultural Relativism

File Options Tools Help

Cultural relativism holds that "Racism is wrong" means

- {1} I disapprove of racism.
- {2} My society disapproves of racism.
- {3} Racism doesn't maximize society's total happiness.

What is your answer, Harry?

TO ANSWER: click the answer (use mouse or touch), type the number, or highlight the number (using spacebar or up/down arrows) & hit the ENTER key.