Course Description
Socrates famously declared that “the unexamined life is not worth living.” With this declaration, Socrates encouraged each of us not only to ask the question, “How should I live my life?,” but also to reflect on the philosophical reasons for any answer that may be given to that question. To help guide our reflections on justice and good human life, we will be reading philosophical works by Aristotle, Kant, J.S. Mill, and John Rawls, among others. Towards the end of the course we raise and evaluate the feminist critique of these views, as we find, for example, in the writings of Carol Gilligan and Annette Baier. We also consider the application of these views to pressing concerns about our environment.

Course Objectives
1. To reflect on our ethical views and the philosophical reasons for holding them.
2. To gain an understanding of major ethical theories in the history of Western philosophy.
3. To practice analyzing and evaluating ethical views, as well as articulating our own views with cogent argument.

Required Texts

*Please do not get any other edition of these texts!* All other required texts will be available either on Blackboard or as an e-book on the library website.

Course Policies
Academic Integrity
Plagiarism, cheating, and any other violation of academic integrity will not be tolerated in this course. Please read carefully the section “Fordham Arts and Sciences Policy on Academic Integrity” in the Student Handbook (http://www.fordham.edu/info/21683/student_handbook). A first offence will result in a failing grade for the assignment. The second offence will result in a failing grade for the course. Ignorance of these policies will not be considered a valid excuse. If there are any questions about any of these policies, please ask.

Attendance
This course will comply with the Fordham University Student Attendance Policy. You are consequently expected to attend every class period. Attendance will be taken promptly at the beginning of every class period. If you are tardy, it is your responsibility to notify me of your presence. If the tardiness is either severe or regular, it will be marked as an unexcused absence. Each unexcused absence will negatively affect your participation grade. Four unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the course.
An absence will be considered excused only if written documentation is provided from the proper authority (Dean or physician), stating that the absence was unavoidable due to personal illness or medical emergency, death or illness in the immediate family, religious holiday, or participation in a university-sanctioned activity.

Digital Distractions
No computers may be used during class, and all cell phones must be turned off and put away. Any visible electronic equipment will be confiscated until the end of class. If you are found checking email, browsing the internet, or text messaging, you will be marked absent for that class period.

Disability Services
As stated in the student handbook, “Fordham University will make reasonable accommodations and provide auxiliary aids and services to assist otherwise qualified persons in achieving access to its programs, services and facilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.” If you believe that you have a disability that may negatively impact your performance in this course, please make an appointment to speak with someone at the Office of Disability Services (O’Hare Hall, Lower Level, 718-817-0655). In order to receive accommodations for your disability, you must declare yourself to the Office of Disability Services, and then bring me a letter from that office. For further information, please see the student handbook.

Course Requirements
Grading:
- Participation: 15%
- Short Papers: 35%
- Mid-term exam: 20%
- Final exam: 30%

Participation:
Your participation grade will depend upon the degree to which you: (i) are punctual to class, (ii) have read all the assigned reading prior to class, (iii) bring the assigned reading to class, (iv) pay attention in class, and (v) contribute thoughtful, relevant, and respectful comments to class discussions. Students who do not feel comfortable speaking in class are encouraged to come to office hours. You will begin the semester with a C+ participation grade. If you are attentive and come to class every day, but do not actively participate (inside or outside of the classroom), your grade will not change. Tardiness, distracting behavior, cell phone use, and absences lower your participation grade; participation raises it.

The course will be primarily taught by Socratic method, meaning that students will often be called on without having raised their hand. The primary purpose of this method is not to force students to learn everything prior to class, but rather to encourage students to prepare themselves for the learning that will take place in class. You are not, therefore, expected to come to class with complete mastery of the reading so that you may correctly answer every question you are asked; because of the difficulty of these texts, this expectation would be unreasonable. Instead, you are expected to have read the assigned reading twice before coming to class, and to come to class both with a good sense of the arguments in the reading and with any questions you may have. If you are having trouble understanding the readings, feel free to come to office hours or email with your question(s).

Short Papers
You will be required to write two papers (each 4-6 pages, double-spaced). The paper topics will be assigned the week before. The first paper will be due on July 18th – after we finish studying Kant. The second paper will be due on August 1st – after we finish studying Rawls. All papers must be submitted via SafeAssign on Blackboard.

Guidelines for Papers
Please make sure that all papers are double-spaced, in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, with 1-inch margins, and submitted in *.doc or *.docx format via SafeAssign on Blackboard. For all papers, required
readings may be cited with a parenthetical reference including the author's name and page number. For secondary sources, please follow the guidelines provided in the *MLA Handbook* or *The Chicago Manual of Style*.

**Secondary Sources**

You will not be required to consider sources beyond the required readings. However, if you wish to peruse additional secondary sources, please limit them to:

1. Articles found through *Philosopher’s Index* (www.library.fordham.edu/database/philosophy.html)

Please do not read or cite anything from Wikipedia, SparkNotes, etc.

**Late Submissions**

All writing assignments must be submitted via SafeAssign on Blackboard by 11:59pm on the day in which they are due. Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade (10%) for every calendar day. Extensions may be granted upon reasonable request.

**Tests:**

There will be a mid-term and a final exam. *Fordham University policy states that final exams cannot be taken early.* Do not book a flight home before the day of the exam!

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**Course Schedule (tentative)**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week (Dates)</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (7/5-7/7)</td>
<td>Mill, “Utilitarianism”; Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality”; Williams “Against Utilitarianism”</td>
<td>Introduction to Ethics, Utilitarianism and its Criticisms</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 (7/12-7/13)</td>
<td>Kant, <em>Groundwork to the Metaphysics of Morals</em>; Langton, “Desolation and Duty”;</td>
<td>Deontology and its Criticisms</td>
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<td>7/14</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/4</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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