

PHIL 330 Ethics

Fall Semester, 2021-22

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

9 Sept, 2021 - 9 Dec, 2021

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

Tues/Thurs 8:30am - 9:50am, St. Eugene de Mazenod Room

Instructors Name:	Dr. Francis Fast
Office:	2-04
Office Hours:	T/Th 1:00pm - 2:00pm
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Course Description

Introduction to traditional and contemporary problems and methods of philosophical ethics or moral philosophy. The impact of ethics on theological and religious teachings and concerns and vice versa.

Course Objectives

- a) **Knowledge of major Western philosophical disciplines, and especially Thomism.** - Students will be able to articulate the nature of practical wisdom and the method of moral science within Aristotelianism, contrasting it with the approach of subsequent traditions.
- b) **Skills in reading, writing and oral communication.** - Students will learn to identify and summarize key concepts from primary texts and synthesize their observations into essays on philosophic topics.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

Participation - 15%: As this class uses Socratic pedagogy, student participation in seminar discussions is required. A rubric for the participation grade will be available on the first day of class.

Post-Seminar Syntheses (0.5 pages each) - 15%: Short assignments, written in response to a specific prompt designed to synthesize core concepts of the text or key ideas of the discussion. Each synthesis should be a well-structured paragraph that articulates a clear thesis. Paragraphs will be graded in part on structure and concision, rewarding brevity and clarity over extent. Prompts will be given at the end of most classes and paragraphs are to be turned in at the start of the subsequent class. Students are allowed to miss one paragraph without damage to their grade. Students who complete all 16 will receive extra credit.

Two short essays (8-12 pages total) - 20%: Topics are listed below and rubrics will be given in class. All essays must be turned in by 5pm on the due date, via email, with a paper copy delivered no later than the start of the next class.

Mid-Term Exam - 20%: Assessment over key concepts from Aristotle's *Ethics*. A study guide will be offered at least one week prior to the exam.

Final Exam - 30%: A study guide will be offered at least one week prior to the exam.

Essay Prompts

ESSAY 1 - 5-7 pages (Nov 3)

Aquinas says that the part of moral philosophy assessed in the *Nicomachean Ethics* is concerned with how human actions are ordered toward an end. What does Aristotle's text teach us about a) the proper end of human action and b) how we are to order our actions toward that end, in practice? Does Cicero's duty-based ethic agree with Aristotle's about the correct order of human life, or are the two authors operating from different principles?

ESSAY 2 - 3-5 pages (Dec 8)

Explain what moral science means for Bentham's consequentialist and Kant's categorical approaches. What does each take as a first principle and how does each think we are to move from first principles to action? Assess how each compares to Aristotle's approach and where they share common ground, where they diverge.

Textbooks

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, trans. Bartlett & Collins (Chicago)

Cicero, *On Duties*, trans. Newton (Agora)

Jeremy Bentham, *An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation* (selections), in *Utilitarianism and Other Essays*, ed. Alan Ryan (Penguin)

Immanuel Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals* (Hackett)

Joseph Pieper, *The Four Cardinal Virtues* (Notre Dame)

Thomas Aquinas, (excerpts in the class reader)

Recommended Reading

The above texts will be sufficient.

Late Submission Policy.

All assignments, unless otherwise noted, are due at the start of class on the specified day (with the exception of essays, which are due at 5:00pm on the previous day). Late assignments are docked 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g. B to B-) per day, excluding Sundays and Holy Days, up to a maximum of 5 days after which the assignment will be deemed incomplete.

Course Schedule

Sep 9	Introduction to course, Aquinas's preface to the <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>	First class.
14	Aristotle, <i>Ethics</i> I	Synthesis 1 due (1%)
16	Aristotle, <i>Ethics</i> II	Synthesis 2 due (1%)
21	Aristotle, <i>Ethics</i> III	Synthesis 3 due (1%)
23	Aristotle, <i>Ethics</i> IV	Synthesis 4 due (1%)
28	Aristotle, <i>Ethics</i> V	Synthesis 5 due (1%)
30	Aristotle, <i>Ethics</i> VI	Synthesis 6 due (1%)
Oct 5	Aristotle, <i>Ethics</i> VII	Synthesis 7 due (1%)
7	Aristotle, <i>Ethics</i> VIII	Synthesis 8 due (1%)
12	Aristotle, <i>Ethics</i> IX	Synthesis 9 due (1%)
14	Aristotle, <i>Ethics</i> X	Synthesis 10 due (1%)
19	n/a	Mid-Term Exam (20%)
21	Aquinas, <i>Commentary on the Beatitudes</i>	
26	Cicero, <i>On Duties</i> I	Synthesis 11 due (1%)
28	Cicero, <i>On Duties</i> II	Synthesis 12 due (1%)
Nov. 2	Cicero, <i>On Duties</i> III	
4	Aquinas, ST I-II Q.61-62, <i>The Cardinal and Theological Virtues</i>	Nov 3: ESSAY 1 due (10%)
9	The Solemn Festival of Reading Week	
11	Remembrance Day	

16	Bentham, <i>An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation</i>	
18	Bentham, <i>An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation</i>	Synthesis 13 due (1%)
23	Kant, <i>Groundwork for a Metaphysics of Morals</i>	Synthesis 14 due (1%)
25	Kant, <i>Groundwork for a Metaphysics of Morals</i>	Synthesis 15 due (1%)
30	Pieper, <i>The Four Cardinal Virtues</i>	Synthesis 16 due (1%)
Dec 2	Pieper, <i>The Four Cardinal Virtues</i>	
7	Pieper, <i>The Four Cardinal Virtues</i>	Dec 6: ESSAY 2 due (10%)
9	Pieper, <i>The Four Cardinal Virtues</i>	
As published	Final Exam	Final Exam (30%)

General Academic Information

Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade "F" may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Academic Calendar in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Academic Calendar in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Academic Calendar.

NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.

Grading System

Undergraduate Studies		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0
	A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0
	B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0
	C-	1.7
Marginal	D+	1.3
	D	1.0
Fail	F	0.0

Graduate Studies		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0
	A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0
	B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0
	C-	1.7
Fail	D+	1.3
	D	1.0
	F	0.0

Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).

2. Joseph Gibaldi & William Achters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
3. American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Student Accessibility Services:

A student with special needs that could affect their performance in class should contact their professor during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. They should also register with Student Services by contacting Sr. Zoe Bernatsky at 780-392-2450 ext. 2213; email zoe.bernatsky@newman.edu

Bibliography (May be distributed in class.)