

# **HUM2391 Morals II**

## **Course Syllabus**

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Morals II is an introductory course. All students may take this course. This is a prerequisite for HUM3391 Morals III.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will examine a number of central issues relating to moral philosophy. As humans, we have a moral code that influences our actions, and interactions with others. This course will examine the debate centered on two lines of thought: Either ethical principles, such as justice and human rights, are independent of human experience, or are human inventions. We will consider how varying views of the rightness or wrongness of an action, or inaction, provide guidance on contemporary moral issues.

You will gain a refined understanding of how culture relates to morals, and also probe many of the principles that can guide your progression in developing morality. As we examine the teachings and theories of various philosophers, you will be able to apply these to ethical issues as an exercise in practical application.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this course you will be better able to argue for or against significant claims regarding truth, with the additional benefit of being able to test ourselves and our arguments. You will be more adept at thinking abstractly, be able to identify moral failings, and be more self-aware. By the end of this course, all students should:

- Be able to appreciate moral theory and the way it relates to practical issues
- Have developed a capability to examine their own life, thoughts, and actions to become more aligned with high moral standards
- Be able to practice philosophical thinking by understanding and assessing complex arguments
- Be adept at applying moral theory to moral issues that they might face in their personal lives
- Write a paper that uses moral philosophy to generate a clear, compelling argument for a specific thesis
- Develop the ability to identify the morally relevant features within a particular case or social issue
- Ability to reason from “good consequences” to “right actions”

### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is mandatory for all students. Excellent attendance is imperative for mastery and application of the information dispensed. Whether you are sitting at a desk in a classroom or attending via Skype, your attendance is vital to your success. Late arrivals are distracting and disrespectful. Please refrain from being tardy.

Grades will be affected by absences and tardiness. Participation in class is a prerequisite. You learn from lectures, discussions and presentations.

## **CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR**

Students are expected to treat all persons with respect. We should all conduct ourselves in a courteous and responsible manner. Be considerate, you can disagree, don't insult.

Please set all your electronic devices to silent during class so as not to be a disturbance to others in the class.

## **TUTORIAL ASSISTANCE**

We maintain an open-door policy for our students. We are absolutely willing to discuss any matter that may arise during the course. If you have any questions, problems, or need help with the course material, we urge you to reach out as soon as the issue arises. If you want to contest a grade, you must do so within 48 hours and put it in writing. Please ask your student advocate for help. If you do not have a student advocate send an email to: [tutordept@usilacs.org](mailto:tutordept@usilacs.org).

## **NON-DISCRIMINATORY STATEMENT**

All students regardless of age, race, gender, religion, physical disability, class, etc., shall have equal opportunity without harassment in this course. Any problems with or questions about harassment can be discussed confidentially via email at: [hr@usilacs.org](mailto:hr@usilacs.org).

## **DRESS CODE**

For students enrolled who are attending in a classroom or via Skype, please be sure you are dressed modestly and respectfully. Please refer to [www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/business%20casual](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/business%20casual). NO short shorts or skirts. Avoid low-cut tops. We want to present ourselves in a dignified manner at all times.

## **NETIQUETTE**

- Always read through all the comments of the class before responding. This will avoid duplicating comments or questions asked.
- Avoid language that could be offensive. All profanity is strictly prohibited. Remember that using all caps when replying online signifies shouting. This would be rude and combative.
- Be sensitive to the fact that there will be fellow students from all parts of the world with many differing backgrounds and languages. Remember that slang and idioms will most likely be misconceived and/or misinterpreted. These should be avoided.
- Respect others views or opinions.
- Be thoughtful of the privacy of others. Ask permission before sharing email addresses or other personal information.

- Do not forward inappropriate material such as: virus warnings, chain letters, jokes, etc. The sharing of pornographic material is strictly prohibited.
- Use good spelling and grammar. Avoid using texting shortcuts.
- Strive to compose your comments in a positive, supportive and constructive manner at all times.

Any of these offenses will be dealt with by the school disciplinary committee.

## **ADA ACCOMMODATIONS**

All reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with disabilities. Any student attending USILACS who needs an accommodation due to a chronic challenge (i.e. blindness, deaf or hard of hearing, mobility issues, psychological, or learning disability), register with:

USILACS Registrar's Office  
1221 Brickell Ave.  
Miami, FL 33131  
1-305-330-2202  
[registrarsoffice@usilacs.org](mailto:registrarsoffice@usilacs.org)

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/CHEATING**

We encourage collaborating with others, either in person or online, to study and learn. When you complete your assignments or your exams, however, the wording has to be your own.

Plagiarism is the theft of someone else's work and ideas. You are permitted to cite or even quote someone else, however, you must properly cite them. There are two accepted ways of doing this. They are known as Modern Language Association (MLA) or American Psychological Association (APA). You can visit [www.citationmachine.net](http://www.citationmachine.net) for help in correctly citing information.

As a school that strives to maintain high moral standards, we strongly caution our students to be ethical and honest. Endeavor to be honest in conducting yourself in regard to any coursework you accomplish or exams you may take. Cheating is a dishonest practice.

## **REFERENCE MATERIALS**

The vast majority of textbooks are outdated by the time they are published. USILACS education programs are not based upon outdated printed textbooks. USILACS programs are based on the most accurate and reliable knowledge available; specifically, up-to-date vetted internet-based information.

For those who would like some reference or Internet search recommendations, we would recommend the following.

(2017) "Ethics Defined: Morals". McCombs School of Business.

(2017) "Ethics Defined: Ethics." McCombs School of Business.

- (2017) Morality. Wikipedia The Free
- (2016) "Metaethics: Crash Course Philosophy #32." Crash Course. PBS Digital Studios.
- (2016) "R&E Ethics: 02 Absolutism vs Relativism." Dr Lynch.
- (2016) "Natural Law Theory: Crash Course Philosophy #34." Crash Course. PBS Digital Studios.
- (2015) Mores. Wikipedia The Free
- (2014) "All is Not Relative." McCombs School of Business.

## **MINIMUM REQUIRED SUPPLIES**

All students will need all of the following:

- Computer with camera, microphone, and speakers.
- Skype installed on the computer with an active Skype account.
- Internet
- Printer
- Notebook paper
- Pens/pencils

If the student does not have a computer or internet, there will be some available for use at the school in the computer lab.

## **GRADING SYSTEM**

There will be three tests throughout the course. Each test will count for 33.3% of the final grade.

Grade	Percentage	Grade Point
A+	99	4.0
A	97	3.8
A-	94	3.7
B+	89	3.3
B	85	3.0
B-	81	2.7
C+	77	2.3
C	73	2.0
C-	69	1.7
D	66	1.0
F	59	0.0

All students must earn at least a "D" in order to pass the class.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

*Paper on Mill's Theory-*

Write a paper on Mill's Theory of Utilitarianism. Start with a summary of the theory and follow with two paragraphs. The first paragraph should tell the pro's and con's of the theory and the last is your opinion. This paper should be at least 3 paragraphs in length.

### *Paper on Kant's Theory-*

Write on paper on Kant's Theory of Deontology. Start with a summary of the theory and follow with two paragraphs. The first paragraph should tell the pro's and con's of the theory and the last is your opinion. This paper should be at least 3 paragraphs in length.

### *Opinion Paper-*

Pick a topic covered in either week 11 or week 12 and write your opinion on the topic. This should be at least 1,000 words in length.

## **WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS**

<b>Week 1</b>	Overview of course and coursework What consequences are good?
<b>Week 2</b>	John Stuart Mill's Ethical Theory: Utilitarianism
<b>Week 3</b>	What is consequentialism?
<b>Week 4</b>	Objective and subjective consequentialism <i>Paper on Mill's Theory due</i>
<b>Week 5</b>	<i>Video review and Exam</i>
<b>Week 6</b>	Kant's Ethical Theory: Deontology
<b>Week 7</b>	Direct and indirect consequentialism
<b>Week 8</b>	Maximizing and satisficing consequentialism <i>Paper on Kant's Theory due</i>
<b>Week 9</b>	<i>Video review and Exam</i>
<b>Week 10</b>	Integrity and Alienation
<b>Week 11</b>	Genetic engineering and cloning
<b>Week 12</b>	War, terrorism, torture <i>Opinion paper due</i>
<b>Week 13</b>	<i>Video review and Final exam</i>