Philosophy 22 - Introduction to Ethical Theory
Instructor: Andrew Flynn
Contact: andrewmflynn@gmail.com
Office Hours: Wednesdays and Fridays, 2:30-3:30 PM, Lu Valle Patio; and by appointment

TA: Daniel Ranweiler
Contact: danranweiler@humnet.ucla.edu
Office Hours: TBA

Course Description: This course will introduce you to major ethical theories by considering the question: “Why be moral?” We’ll read very influential works by three philosophers who continue to influence how we think about morality: Aristotle, Kant, and Mill. We’ll try to understand how these thinkers answer that question in different ways. Then, we’ll consider some skeptical alternatives. Assignments will consist of three homeworks.

Week I
6/24, Class 1 - Introduction: Why Be Moral?
Background Reading: Plato’s Republic, Book One

6/26, Class 2 - Aristotle (What’s Good For Humans?)
Reading: Nicomachean Ethics, Book I

6/28, Class 3 – Continued.
Reading: Nicomachean Ethics, Book II

Week II
7/1, Class 4 - Aristotle (What’s a Moral Virtue?)
Reading: Nicomachean Ethics, Book III

7/3, Class 5 – Continued.
Reading: Nicomachean Ethics, Book IV
Assignment 1 Due

7/5, Class 6 - Aristotle (Case Studies in the Point of Morality: Justice)
Reading: Nicomachean Ethics, Book V

Week III
7/8, Class 7 - Kant (What's Good for Rational Agents?)
Reading: Groundwork, Section I

7/10, Class 8 - Kant (What’s Duty?)
Reading: Groundwork, Section II
7/12, Class 9 - Kant (Case Studies in the Point of Morality: Gluttony and Beneficence)
Reading: Excerpts from the *Metaphysics of Morals*

**Week IV**
7/15, Class 10 – Mill (What’s Good for Conscious Beings?)
Reading: *Utilitarianism*, Chapters 1 and 2

7/17, Class 11 – Continued.
Reading: *Utilitarianism*, Chapters 3 and 4

7/19, Class 12 - Mill (Case Study in the Point of Morality: Justice)
Readings: *Utilitarianism*, Chapter 5
**Assignment 2 Due**

**Week V**
7/22, Class 13 – Catch-Up and Review

7/24, Class 14 - Why Be Moral?… Revisited
Reading: Philippa Foot, *Natural Goodness*, Chapter 6

7/26, Class 15 - Continued.
Readings: Philippa Foot, *Natural Goodness*, Chapter 7

**Week VI**
7/29, Class 16 - Obscured Perspectives
Reading: Tommie Shelby, Excerpts from *Dark Ghettos*

7/31, Class 17 – Continued.
Reading: Iris Maron Young, “Throwing Like a Girl”

8/2, Class 18 – Wrap-Up
Reading: TBD
**Assignment 3 Due**

**Course Requirements**
Attendance (15%)
Assignment 1 (15%)
Assignment 2 (35%)
Assignment 3 (35%)

**Texts:** Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*, Kant’s *Groundwork*, and Mill’s *Utilitarianism* are required and available for purchase in the UCLA Bookstore in Ackerman. All other readings will be posted to the course website.
**Academic Misconduct:**
Students are expected to know and to follow the university’s guidelines for academic honesty. Academic misconduct can occur in a variety of ways, including (but not limited to) cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism. When in doubt about whether some academic practice is acceptable, ask your TA or the instructor for assistance. Always err on the side of avoiding misconduct. Any suspected violation of university policy regarding academic conduct will be reported directly to the Office of the Dean of Students. (This is a course policy, and it is not subject to revision by your TA.) In other words, there are no exceptions.

**Academic Accommodation:**
Students needing academic accommodations based on a disability should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) [formerly the Office for Students with Disabilities or OSD] at (310)825-1501 or in person at Murphy Hall A255. When possible, students should contact the CAE within the first two weeks of the term as reasonable notice is needed to coordinate accommodations.

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance in section and lecture is mandatory, and constitutes 15% of your grade. We will be taking attendance in both. You get an A in attendance simply for showing up. You are allowed one unexcused absence, in either section or lecture. (A valid excuse is, e.g., illness.) After this, each unexcused absence will result in a third of a letter grade coming off of your attendance grade.

**Electronics Policy:** Electronic devices are not allowed, unless needed for accommodation.