

Philosophy 214
Introductory Ethics
Fall 2009

Dr. Kenneth W. Kemp
Associate Professor of Philosophy
University of St. Thomas
Office: 217 John Roach Center

Office Telephone: 651-962-5360
Home Telephone: 651-227-6060
E-mail: KWKemp@StThomas.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment

Opening Prayer

O Ineffable Creator, true Fountain of light and wisdom, shed the brightness of Thy light upon the darkness of my understanding. Grant me acuteness in understanding what I read, power to remember it, readiness in learning it, subtlety in interpreting it, and clearness in expressing it. Order the beginnings of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to fulfillment, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

—St. Thomas Aquinas

Grading

The course objectives will be achieved by a combination of readings, lectures, class discussions, essays and examinations. The final grade will be assigned on the basis of

Class Attendance & Participation	10%
Homework & Quizzes	15%
Three Examinations	25% each

Students are expected to attend every class meeting. Unexcused absences will count against the attendance grade. Students must notify the instructor of university excuses or other legitimate excuses for absence.

Students with influenza symptoms (temperature of 100° or greater accompanied by a cough or sore throat) should stay home from classes and minimize their contact with other people from the onset of symptoms until at least 24 hours after their fever has returned to normal without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

Students unable to attend classes due to influenza should consult the university's pandemic web site and complete the on-line form informing professors of their absence.

<http://www.stthomas.edu/pandemic/plan/default.html>

Lecture notes from every class will be available on the course web-site shortly after each lecture is given. Students who miss class due to illness are encouraged to make an appointment with the instructor as needed to review material covered during classes they were unable to attend.

In the event of a serious outbreak of influenza on campus, other adaptations to the usual method of instruction will be made, as appropriate.

Homework assignments will be summaries of or brief reflections on assigned readings & lecture material.

The examinations will be either 5-7 page essays written at home over the course of about two weeks or one-hour short-answer and essay examinations written in class. On examinations, students will be expected to state the principal points made by the authors studied, define key terms, and present the arguments offered by these authors in support of their conclusions, and to apply key ideas to relevant situations.

The ordinary penalty for plagiarism or other forms of cheating will be a course grade of "F".

Course grades will be assigned on the basis of the percent of possible points earned in accordance with the following schedule:

A	90 – 100%
B	80 – 90%
C	70 – 80%
D	60 – 70%
F	< 60%

("Plus" and "minus" may be attached to grades at the high & low ends of these ranges at the discretion of the instructor.)

Required Readings

The following books are available at the bookstore:

John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*

Plato, *Five Dialogs*

Sophocles, *The Complete Plays*

Aristotle, *Ethics*

St. Thomas Aquinas, *Treatise on Law*

A packet of photocopied readings available from the bookstore

Other required readings are available at various sites on the world-wide web (with links on the course web-site) or at the Reserve Desk of the university library.

Course Web-site

URL: <http://courseweb.StThomas.edu/KWKemp/Ethics>

Schedule of Readings

W = World-wide Web;
L = Library Reserve;

B = Coursebook
R = Reader

DATE	TOPIC	READING	
10 Sep	Introduction		
15 Sep	Utilitarianism	Jeremy Bentham, from <i>Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation</i> John Stuart Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> , ch. 1-2	W B
17 Sep	... & Justice	John Stuart Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> , ch. 5	B
22 Sep	Presumptivism Issue: Morality & War	W. D. Ross, "What Makes Right Acts Right?" from <i>The Right & the Good</i> C. S. Lewis, "Why I Am Not a Pacifist" from <i>The Weight of Glory</i>	W L
24 Sep		St. Thomas Aquinas, "On War" James Childress, "Just-War Theories"	W R
29 Sep	Non-Combatant Immunity	Michael Walzer, "Supreme Emergency" Jeffrey Murphy, "The Killing of the Innocent"	R R
1 Oct	The Enlightenment Project of Justifying Morality & its Problems		
6 Oct	The Human <i>Telos</i> : Social Foundations	Sophocles, <i>Antigone & Philoctetes</i> Plato, <i>Euthyphro & Apology</i>	B B
8 Oct	EXAMINATION		
13 Oct	Aristotle: Happiness	Aristotle, <i>Ethics</i> Bk I (excl. ch. 6) & X.1-5	B
15 Oct	Moral Virtue	Aristotle, <i>Ethics</i> Bks II & III.6-12	B
20 Oct	Justice: Distributive	Aristotle, <i>Ethics</i> Bk V.1-5 Walter Blum & Harry Kalven, jr., "The Anatomy of Justice in Taxation"	B R
22 Oct	Punitive Commercial	Robert G. Kennedy, "The Practice of Just Compensation"	R
27 Oct	Friendship & Politics	Aristotle, <i>Ethics</i> Bk VIII. 1-6 & IX.9-12	B

DATE	TOPIC	READING	
29 Oct	Intellectual Virtues & Contemplation Work	Aristotle, <i>Ethics</i> Bk VI.1-2 & X.6-9 John Paul II, <i>Laborem Exercens</i> 38-41 & 112-117	B
3 Nov	EXAMINATION		
5 Nov	Aquinas: Human Actions	St. Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologiae</i> , 1a2æ, Q. 18, aa. 1-5 & 8-11	W
10 Nov	Issues: Capital Punishment Lying	<i>Summa Theologiae</i> , 2a2æ Q. 64, aa. 1-6 Q.110, aa. 1-3 Kemp & Sullivan, "Speaking Falsely & Telling Lies"	W
12 Nov			
17 Nov	Principle of Double Effect	St. Thomas, <i>Summa Theologiae</i> 2a2æ , Q. 64, a. 7 W. David Solomon, "The Principle of Double Effect"	W R
19 Nov	Issue: Euthanasia	James Rachels, "Active & Passive Euthanasia" Thomas D. Sullivan, "Active & Passive Euthanasia: An Impertinent Distinction"	W W
24 Nov	Law—Nature & Kinds	St. Thomas Aquinas, <i>Treatise on Law</i> (from <i>Summa Theologiae</i> 1a2æ) Q. 90 Q. 91, aa. 1-4	R R
1 Dec	Natural Law	Q. 94, aa. 2-6	B
3 Dec	Human Law	Q. 95, aa. 1-2 Q. 96, aa. 2-4 & 6	B
8 Dec	Issue: Conscientious Objection	Q. 97, aa. 1-4 Kenneth W. Kemp, "Conscientious Objection"	B
10 Dec		Max Hamburger, "Aristotle & Confucius: A Comparison"	B R
17 Dec	FINAL EXAMINATION for section 16 (morning section) at 10:30		
18 Dec	FINAL EXAMINATION for section 17 (afternoon section) at 10:30		