ETHR 105 (2) : ETHICS AND EVERYDAY LIFE

Instructor: Assist. Prof. Çiğdem Yazıcı
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Office: SOS Z11
Office Hrs: 11:00-12:00 & by appointment
Office Phone: 1131

Course Assistant: Baver Demircan
E-mail: bdemircan@ku.edu.tr

Course Description:
How do we experience freedom, justice, equality, rights, good & evil, judgments, and discrimination, etc., in our everyday life from the corner of a grocery store to a doctor’s office, to a court-house or to a class at the university? The course aims to analyze the various ways of ethical reasoning already happening in our everyday interactions in order to enrich and sometimes to challenge the philosophical theories of ethics as well as to analyze the already existing theories of ethical reasoning in the history of philosophy to introduce more ethical reasoning to our everyday life and challenge our at times non-reasoning habits. Hence, to create productive connections between theory and practice in everyday life, the course encourages very open discussion of everyday examples in connection to our theoretical readings from Plato, Aristotle, Mill, Kant, Sartre, Arendt, Nietzsche, Marx, and contemporary readings on cases in bioethics and law regarding several cases of discrimination due to categories of gender, race, and class.

Exams, Quizzes & Reading Responses:
There will be one midterm and one final exam. The first mid-term will be an exam in class. Depending on the course of our class, the final exam will be either an in-class or take-home. There will be either a short quiz or reading response after every reading. For all make-ups please contact the professor with medical or other legitimate excuse, another day will be scheduled for exam or paper assignment.

Writing Clinic
For your English writing in reading responses and paper assignments, you can get help from the Writing Clinic in the department of philosophy in addition to the teaching center KOLT where you can also help in writing. The office of Writing Clinic offers help also in philosophical writing focusing on improvement of arguments and interpretation by regarding the content of the course as well. Currently we have three teaching assistants in that office: Nalan Saraç: nsarac@ku.edu.tr, Elis Simson: esimson@ku.edu.tr, and Baver Demircan: bdemircan@ku.edu.tr. You can ask help from any of our assistants by appointments via e-mail. Yet, since our course assistant is Baver Demircan, I recommend that you ask for his help mostly because he will be more informed of our course content.

Academic Integrity:
A student found guilty of plagiarism will receive a grade of "F" and will be taken to juridical affairs. Information taken without clear acknowledgment of its source, regardless of its being from internet, from other books, or from someone else, also constitutes plagiarism.

Class Manners:
Laptops and cell-phones should be turned off during the class. Getting out & in, doing some other work, and interrupting each other in the classroom are not welcomed. You will be asked to leave the classroom if your manners will be distracting the professor or other students. If there is an emergency for leaving the class early or coming late please let me know before the class starts.
**Attendance:**
Attendance is required and class participation is highly important for this class. They will constitute 20 percent of your final grade.

**Texts:**
There will be a reader at the Copy Center. Readings will be provided also via electronic links, scanned copies or handouts. Check your e-mails regularly, to keep up with the announcements.

**Grading:**

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm I</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Above100 = A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>77-75 = C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>100 -95= A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes and Reading Responses</td>
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<td>94-90= A-</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>54-0= F</td>
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**Grading Scale:**

- Above100 = A+
- 77-75 = C+
- 74-70 = C
- 94-90 = A-
- 69-67.5 = C-
- 89-85 = B+
- 84-80 = B
- 79-77.5 = B-
- 74-70 = C
- 67-65 = D+
- 64-60 = D
- 59-55 = D-
- 54-0 = F

**Tentative Schedule**

**Unit I**

**Universalism, Particularism, Relativism, Utilitarianism and Critical Approaches**

**Week 1** Feb 4 & 6
Introduction: Ethical Reasoning in Theory and Practice

**Week 2** Feb 11 & 13
Philosophy and Wonder as a Way of Life in Socrates’ Question of Good Life
Stoicism and Question of Way of Life

**Week 3** Feb 18 & 20
Aristotle’s Virtue Ethics
Utilitarianism, Mill

**Week 4** Feb 25 & 27
Kant’s Moral Philosophy and Responsibility
Kant’s Idea of Enlightenment and Moral Freedom

**Week 5** March 4 & 6
Comparative Discussions on Aristotle, Mill and Kant regarding the Case of Eichmann
Week 6 March 11 & 13

Existentialist Approach to Responsibility, Sartre’s “Existentialism is a Humanism”

Week 7 March 18 & 20

A Critical Approach with Nietzsche’s Idea of Morality as Master-Slave Morality

Week 8 March 25 & 27

Review & Midterm I

Unit II

Ethical Reasoning in Practice:
Questions of Justice and Discrimination Regarding Disability, Gender, Race and Labor in Everyday Life

Week 9 April 1 & 3

The Question of Good Life in Bio-Ethical Issues

Disability and discrimination via the definitions of good life: http://blip.tv/deafso/the-end-6002942

Week 10 April 8 & 10

Spring Break

Week 11 April 15 & 17

Discussions of Euthanasia, Reproduction Technologies and Sex Reassignment Surgeries

Joy Harjo’s Experience of Birth at a Hospital and David-Brenda Case

Week 12 April 22 & 24

Ethical Reasoning in Debates on the ideas of Racism

Week 13 April 29 and May Day

Business Ethics in Labor and Workplace

Week 14 May 6 & 8

Documentary: Free Zone

Week 15 May 13 & 15

Review for the Final Exam (TBA)