

PHIL 260

Intro to Moral Philosophy Professor White

T/Th

12:30 – 1:50

Harris L07



Ethics & Values Distro Area

Overview of class

This course will introduce students to some perennial questions in the philosophy of morality. We will be concerned with questions about (1) the nature of morality: For instance, are there universal, objective truths about right and wrong? Or is morality ultimately a subjective or relative matter? (2) The substance of morality: Are there certain actions that are absolutely forbidden, no matter what the consequences? When evaluating a person's action, in what way do his or her motives matter? And (3) the importance of morality: Should we really care whether we do the right thing? Along the way we will consider the contributions of major figures in moral philosophy, including Plato, David Hume, Immanuel Kant, Bernard Williams, Philippa Foot, and others.

Learning Objectives

Students will

- (1) Gain an understanding of important issues and theories in moral philosophy.
- (2) Learn to interpret and philosophical texts and arguments.
- (3) Critically evaluate their own moral convictions.
- (4) Learn to construct arguments and clearly explain philosophical ideas in writing.