

PHIL 260

Intro to Moral Philosophy

Evan Dutmer

M/W
2:00–4:30pm



Course Description:

Moral questions—about right and wrong, good and evil, virtue and vice—are not questions only our leaders, representatives, and legal system have to worry about. In our daily lives, too, we are surrounded by them. We may ask ourselves: Should I change how I'm living for the good of myself and those around me? How do I tell my children about what's good and bad behavior? How do I know when I've been wronged—or when I've wronged others? Further, we might wonder: What is the good life? And, am I a good person? Generally, philosophers have attempted to answer these difficult questions by using reason and carefully crafted arguments. In the readings for this course, we'll see ways in which philosophers—ancient, modern, and contemporary—have sought to provide answers to moral questions using these methods. Then, we'll begin to evaluate these attempts both in our discussion in class and in our writing for this course. Ultimately, students will begin to develop philosophical positions of their own on moral issues and defend them using philosophical argumentation.