

ANALYTIC MORAL PHILOSOPHY

FALL 2025

INSTRUCTOR

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Welder Library 103
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OFFICE HOURS

By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an in-depth examination of an advanced topic in moral philosophy. Possible topics include particular ethical theories, issues in metaethics, various topics in moral psychology, or the ethical works of a particular philosopher. May be repeated under different topics with advisor's approval. (Repeated courses will be recorded as continuing credits.)

COURSE OUTCOMES

This course asks you to do all of these:

- Identify the significance of the chosen topic.
- Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments pertaining to the chosen topic.

Note that, to measure your attainment of these outcomes, you must do certain assessments.

ASSESSMENTS

Your final grade will be determined by your performance on eighteen reflections, on three tests, on a paper, and on an exam:

- Eighteen reflections will determine twenty percent of your final grade. You must submit each reflection on Canvas prior to the start of the relevant class.
- Three tests will determine thirty percent of your final grade. You must submit each test on Canvas prior to the end of the relevant day.
- A paper will determine twenty-five percent of your final grade. You must submit this paper on Canvas prior to the end of the relevant day.
- An exam will determine twenty-five percent of your final grade. You must submit this exam on Canvas prior to the end of the relevant day.

Note that, if you fail to do an assessment by the time that it is due—for any reason—then you may receive a grade of zero on that assessment. Because of this, you should not wait

until the last minute to do any assessment! Note also that, to do well in these assessments, you must do certain readings.

READINGS

These readings are available at the bookstore—though you are free to buy them elsewhere:

- *The Norton Anthology of Western Philosophy: After Kant*. Volume 2, *The Analytic Tradition*. Edited by James Conant and Jay Elliott. New York: Norton, 2017. ISBN: 978-0393929089.

Any other readings are available on Canvas.

BENEDICTINE VALUES

All six of our [Benedictine Values](#) are implicated in this course. At its heart, though, is Hospitality—that is, a sort of vulnerability to the ideas of others.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Because discussion plays a crucial role in this course, it is crucial that you not only attend class but also listen attentively and contribute seriously to that discussion—not occasionally but every time that we meet. You should, in other words, be present at and participating in every class—unless, of course, you provide an official university excuse.

I reserve the right to drop you should you miss ten classes without an official university excuse. This is in accord with the excessive absence policy, which is available for review [online](#).

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Though laptops, tablets, and smartphones are profoundly useful, they are also profoundly distracting—not only to you but also to others. Therefore, you may not use laptops, tablets, and smartphones in class unless, at your request, I have given you permission to do so.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

It should go without saying that academic dishonesty of any sort is wrong. Worse than that, though, academic dishonesty reveals a serious confusion regarding the reasons that one is in a course in philosophy—or, for that matter, at a university—in the first place. Such dishonesty is occasion for as much pity as anger.

Presenting the work of another as your own is academically dishonest. Whenever you copy the words of another, therefore, you must place those words within quotation marks and cite their source. (This goes for the words of any artificial intelligence, by the way!)

As a deterrent, let me promise that I will prosecute every instance of academic dishonesty. But do not misinterpret this promise: if you feel that you do not understand something well

enough to explain it in your own words—whether in this course or in any other—then come to me for help. We will work together to overcome whatever difficulty stands in your way.

COURSE INFORMATION

This course, PHI 426 01, meets for fifteen weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2:00 PM in Welder Library XXXX. It is worth three credits, is an elective for majors and minors in philosophy, and is graded according to the usual scale. (Note that there won't be any rounding.)

STATEMENT ON WORKLOAD

Since this is a three semester-credit undergraduate-level course lasting fifteen weeks, students can expect to spend a minimum of three hours a week instructional time and another six hours a week studying outside of instructional time.

STATEMENT ON EXCUSED ABSENCES

The University has a policy on excused absences related to sponsored or sanctioned activities and events. The policy is available for review [online](#). Students participating in such activities and events are expected to review this policy and comply with it. As long as appropriate prior notification is given according to this policy, students and faculty reach a mutual agreement concerning make-up work, and students complete the work in question, faculty shall not penalize a student for missing a class or exam when they were granted an excused absence from the university. Any questions concerning the policy may be referred to the course instructor who may refer the question to the athletic director, the student activities director, or academic affairs for an answer.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students are expected to read the University of Mary's [Academic Honor Code and Honor System](#) and abide by all the standards of conduct and requirements contained therein. When a student is in doubt about whether or not an action might constitute an Academic Honor Code violation, he or she should request clarification from the instructor *before* the action in question is undertaken.

STATEMENT ON REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

The University of Mary, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and in the spirit of our mission, offers support for disabled students who provide the required documentation. Students with disabilities who need accommodations should apply to the [Office of Student Accessibility Services](#). For further information, contact Dr. Lynn Dodge, coordinator of Student Accessibility Services, in the Student Success Center. You can reach her at 701-355-8264 or ljdodge@umary.edu.

Students should communicate any questions or concerns relating to this course to the following individuals in the order listed below. To learn more about the University of Mary's process for responding to academic concerns, students should read its policy, which is available for review [online](#).

Dan Sportiello, Associate Professor of Philosophy > Hannah Venable, Chair of the Philosophy Program > James Peliska, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences

1	Tuesday	September 2	Introduction		
	Thursday	September 4	The Invention of Metaethics		
2	Tuesday	September 9	The Invention of Metaethics	Sidgwick	Reflection 1
	Thursday	September 11	The Invention of Metaethics	Moore	Reflection 2
3	Tuesday	September 16	The Invention of Metaethics	Prichard	Reflection 3
	Thursday	September 18	The Invention of Metaethics	Ayer	Reflection 4
4	Tuesday	September 23	The Invention of Metaethics	Stevenson	Reflection 5
	Thursday	September 25	The Invention of Metaethics	MacIntyre	Reflection 6
5	Tuesday	September 30	The Invention of Metaethics		
	Thursday	October 2	The Invention of Metaethics		Test 1
6	Tuesday	October 7	The Aristotelian Turn		
	Thursday	October 9	The Aristotelian Turn	Geach	Reflection 7
7	Tuesday	October 14	The Aristotelian Turn	Anscombe	Reflection 8
	Thursday	October 16	Catching Up		
8	Tuesday	October 21	The Aristotelian Turn	Hare	Reflection 9
	Thursday	October 23	The Aristotelian Turn	Foot	Reflection 10
9	Tuesday	October 28	The Aristotelian Turn	Murdoch	Reflection 11
	Thursday	October 30	The Aristotelian Turn	McDowell	Reflection 12
10	Tuesday	November 4	The Aristotelian Turn		
	Thursday	November 6	The Aristotelian Turn		Test 2
11	Tuesday	November 11	The Revival of Ethics		
	Thursday	November 13	The Revival of Ethics	Early Rawls	Reflection 13
12	Tuesday	November 18	The Revival of Ethics	Later Rawls	Reflection 14
	Thursday	November 20	The Revival of Ethics	Mackie	Reflection 15

13	Tuesday	November 25	The Revival of Ethics	Williams	Reflection 16
	Thursday	November 27	No Class		
14	Tuesday	December 2	The Revival of Ethics	Rorty	Reflection 17
	Thursday	December 4	The Revival of Ethics	Korsgaard	Reflection 18
15	Tuesday	December 9	The Revival of Ethics		
	Thursday	December 11	The Revival of Ethics		Test 3
16	Tuesday	December 16	No Class		Paper
	Thursday	December 18	No Class		Exam