



Please pay special attention to the fact that you are enrolled in a 3 credit, 16 week course that *runs* over 4 weeks. The workload might seem extreme if you do not keep this in mind.

Instructors

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Course Overview & Structure

Welcome to Philosophy 103: Ethics, an introductory course in philosophical ethics. The principal focus is to develop an understanding of the major theories and concepts in the history of western moral philosophy. In addition to reading several seminal works in moral philosophy, we will consider the application of the moral theories through novels, plays, and short stories.

The first thing to note is that this class is very structured with daily assignments. Whether you are in Moscow, Idaho, this summer, elsewhere in the United States, or somewhere abroad, it is critical that you are prepared and ready to work on this class every weekday for the next four weeks. As with any campus-based summer course, this course requires a far heavier daily focus and more intense study than the standard semester-long course where study of the material is spread over 16 weeks, rather than just four.

A second thing to note is the absolute need for a good, reliable internet connection. This course is entirely web-based. You are expected to participate in online threaded group discussions and to submit written work on a regular and timely basis over the four weeks of the course. Every assignment -- written or discussion -- is time-sensitive. A good portion of your grade will be based on participation in online threaded group discussions that must occur within designated times. If you are in a location outside the Pacific Time Zone, you will need to account for the time difference. As to written assignments, when the deadline to submit an assignment has passed, the web-system ([Blackboard](#)) will not allow any more submissions. In order to make the process fair for everyone, we do not make exceptions or permit late submissions. Hence, it is critical that you have a reliable daily internet connection. If your internet connection is wobbly, take that into account and give yourself extra time instead of submitting assignments at the last minute. The virtue of web-based courses such as this one is that students can take and readily complete it at locations far distant from the University of Idaho campus. But to take advantage of the web's distant learning power and convenience, it is absolutely necessary to have a good web connection and to be ready to work in a highly structured and time-sensitive format.

Reading

- Almost all reading is available in .pdf format via *Blackboard*. There will be one assigned work of fiction that you will need to purchase. Further information on that text will be provided once groups have been assigned.
- **Recommended:** Vaughn, *Writing Philosophy*, Oxford University Press, 2005 (ISBN: 0195179560) -- a very useful text if you are new to philosophical endeavors.