

**Department:** Philosophy

**Course number:** PHIL 215W

**Title:** Ethics

**Credits:** 3

**Contact Person:** Donald Baxter

**Catalog Copy:** -215W. Ethics

Prerequisite: At least one of PHIL 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106; ENGL 105 or 110 or 111 or 250. Open to sophomores or higher.

Judgments of good and evil, right and justice, the moral 'ought' and freedom; what do such judgments mean, is there any evidence for them, and can they be true?

**W Criteria:** - Courses in ethics are particularly well suited to be enabled and improved through extended work on writing: in the subject matter of ethics, it is particularly difficult to make positions and arguments precise due to the variety of subtle dimensions involved in ethical interaction. As a result, the writing forces students to be as precise as possible in challenging circumstances. Revisions of papers reflect the changes in the understanding of the student, as successive layers of ethical, psychological, and philosophical complexity are explored by the student. Students will be required to hand in a total of 15 pages which have been fully revised (in terms of content and not just editing) at least once; the writing assignments taken together will count as 60 percent of the final grade. Feedback to students will be in the form of written comments on work, as well as in face to face, one-on-one, consultations on both the material and the writing. There will be two main writing assignments, one of five pages and one of ten pages. The first draft of the five page paper will first be due after three weeks of the course, and its revision will be due two weeks later. The first draft of the ten page assignment will be due after 9 weeks of classes and the revised draft will be due the final week of classes.

**Role of Grad Students:** - G.A's may assist the professor, who will also supervise them via regularly scheduled meetings, provided the G.A.s have attended a training workshop at the W Learning Center. Normally, however, graduate students are not involved.