

PHIL 118J
Winter 2020
Virtue and the Good Life
Course Outline

Course information:

Lecture Times: Tu Th 1:00-2:20

Classroom: SJ1 #3016

Professor: Stephanie Gregoire

Office: Sweeney Hall #2002

Phone: 884-8111 ext 28247

Office hours: Th 12:00-12:50; 3:00-4:00, or by appointment

Email address: gregoire@uwaterloo.ca

Email policy: Use emails for administrative purposes only and not to ask about course content. For example, before a test, you may email me to set up an appointment but not to ask a question about the material.

Course overview:

An examination of the importance of virtue in general and of the cardinal virtues in particular (practical wisdom, justice, courage, and moderation) for the development of moral character and the enjoyment of the good life.

After a short introduction, we will familiarize ourselves with the classical conception of virtue which is to be found in ancient philosophers such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle and Aquinas. Focusing on themes such as the purpose of ethical reflection, the relation of virtue and happiness, the relation of knowledge and virtue and the diversity of the virtues, we will try to appreciate how these authors, while agreeing on many questions, modify and improve upon their predecessors' conceptions, thus establishing the tradition we now know.

Classes will consist of a presentation of the material by the professor on the issues to be considered, accompanied by discussion periods. You will be notified in advance of the texts to be discussed, and you will be responsible for doing the reading assignments prior to the class session.

Evaluation:

There will be four in-class examinations (January 28th, February 25th, March 12th, April 2nd) worth respectively 8%, 32%, 35% and 25% of your final grade. They will consist of some true or false, some multiple-choice, but mostly short-answer and essay questions. They will cover both the lecture material and the reading material.

Attendance Policy and Missed Tests:

I emphasize that class attendance is critical for good performance in this course. As for missed tests, I am forewarning you that I will be following very strictly the UW policy. That means that if you are prevented from writing a test because of sickness, a medical certificate must be presented and must provide all of the information requested by the “University of Waterloo Verification of Illness” form or it will not be accepted. It is better for all parties involved that you take good note of this at the beginning of the term. Also, note that elective arrangements such as travel plans, heavy workload, hobby commitments, family and part time jobs obligations, etc, are not considered acceptable grounds for granting an alternative examination time. I will make no exceptions. See <https://uwaterloo.ca/registrar/final-examinations/examination-regulations-and-related-matters>. All make-up midterm exams and quizzes will be offered on the first Friday following the exam, from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

Required Texts and Readings:

You will be provided on UW LEARN with documents entitled ‘Guidelines for Study’ which are more or less detailed lists of the main points raised in the lectures. These are to help you to take and to structure your course notes. You will also be provided with a number of handouts. You must obtain the courseware book at the UW bookstore. You must obtain any edition you want of Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*. One will be available at the bookstore.

Provisionary List of readings:

Plato

Republic Books I, IV, V, VI,

VII *Protagoras*

Meno

Laches

Charmides

Euthyphro

Phaedo

Theaetetus

Aristotle

Nicomachean Ethics

Aquinas

Summa theologiae, I-IIae q. 22-
25 I-IIae q. 55-67

Important Information:

Academic Integrity: To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Federated University and Affiliated Colleges are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility.

Academic Integrity Office (UW): A resource for students and instructors

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Students who decide to file a grievance should refer to University of Waterloo Policy 70 (Student Petitions and Grievances). For more information, students should contact the Associate Dean of St. Jerome’s University.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline or University of Waterloo Policy 70 (Student Petitions and Grievances) if a ground for an appeal can be established. In such a case, read University of Waterloo Policy 72 (Student Appeals).

Note for Students with Disabilities: The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.