

**PHIL 300 Ethics (3 units)**  
**Azusa Pacific University, Fall 2007**  
T 4:20-7:20pm in Duke 127

**Instructor:** John McAteer, filmphilosopher@gmail.com

**Office Hours:** MWF 2:00-3:00pm in Duke 262

**Course Description:** The basic principles of ethical conduct are examined, as applied to personal and social problems. The chief theories of the "good life" are investigated, with special attention given to the principles underlying a consistent ethical outlook on life.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Through the assigned reading and class lecture students will acquire a basic comprehension of the major positions in philosophical ethics and the common methods of ethical reasoning; through the exams, students will demonstrate their understanding of these issues.
2. Through movie screenings and class discussion, students will learn to engage in ethical thinking in real world contexts and engage in critical conversation on the philosophical and ethical questions generated by popular culture.
3. Through class discussion students will learn to articulate and evaluate philosophical arguments in order to develop their own reasoned opinions on the major issues in ethics.
4. Through the term paper students will learn to integrate their reasoned philosophical views with their understanding of Christian doctrine in order to generate a single coherent worldview.

**Grading:** Preparation Notes (40%)  
Midterm Exam (20%)  
Term Paper (40%)

**Preparation Notes:** Each week, students are expected to come prepared to discuss the assigned reading. In order to facilitate this requirement, students will turn in a 1 page typed paper on *each* assigned chapter. (This means if, for example, four chapters are assigned, students will turn in four sets of notes.) Each paper should consist of three parts: (1) first, in your own words and as clearly and concisely as you can, state the overall thesis of the chapter; ideally, this will be only one sentence; (2) next, state an objection not considered by the author; if you completely agree with the material in the chapter, then state a possible objection you imagine someone else might have; (3) finally, state at least one question raised by the chapter; this might be something you didn't understand about the material or it might be a topic you wish to discuss with your classmates. *No late papers will be accepted.*

**Term Paper:**

Write a 10-12 page paper relating the *Decalogue* film series to the material on narrative/aesthetic ethics from either MacIntyre or Johnson. This topic is intentionally vague to allow for creativity. You will need to formulate a more specific thesis. The only requirements are that you (1) summarize the relevant material from MacIntyre or Johnson (this section should be no more than 1/3 of your overall paper length), and (2) apply the material to the *Decalogue* films (either by using the films to illuminate the philosophy texts or by using the philosophy texts to interpret the films; a truly excellent paper would attempt to read the films as themselves being philosophical texts capable of critiquing the more traditional texts). An exceptional paper will also bring in material from Hauerwas where relevant, but this is not required. Within those parameters, you are encouraged to have fun (but it would be a good idea to meet with the professor during office hours to discuss whether your thesis is appropriate). **Due 12/11/07.**

**Required Texts:**

1. Darwall, Stephen. *Philosophical Ethics*, Reissue ed. (Westview, 1998), ISBN: 0813378605
2. Hauerwas, Stanley. *The Peaceable Kingdom: A Primer in Christian Ethics* (Notre Dame, 1983), ISBN: 0268015546
3. Lewis, C.S. *The Abolition of Man*, New Ed. (Harper San Francisco, 2001), ISBN: 0060652942

Choose **one** of the following two texts for your term paper:

4. Johnson, Mark. *Moral Imagination: Implications of Cognitive Science for Ethics*, Reprint ed. (University of Chicago, 1994), ISBN: 0226401693
5. MacIntyre, Alasdair. *After Virtue: A Study in Moral Theory*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Notre Dame, 2007), ISBN: 0268035040

**Schedule:**

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|---------|--|
| 9/11/07 | 1. Lecture: The Ethical Question<br>Reading: Darwall Ch 1-2          |
|         | 2. In class screening: <i>Decalogue</i> 1                            |
| 9/18/07 | 1. Lecture: Divine Command Theory<br>Reading: Darwall Ch 3-4         |
|         | 2. Lecture: Reason vs. Emotion<br>Reading: Darwall Ch 5-6            |
| 9/25/07 | 1. Lecture: Relativism and Noncognitivism<br>Reading: Darwall Ch 7-8 |
|         | 2. Lecture: Hobbes and Contractarianism<br>Reading: Darwall Ch 10-11 |

- 10/2/07
1. Lecture: Mill and Utilitarianism  
Reading: Darwall Ch 12-13
  2. Lecture: Kant and Deontology  
Reading: Darwall Ch 14-15
- 10/9/07
1. Lecture: Nietzsche's Critique of Enlightenment Morality  
Reading: Darwall Ch 16
  2. C.S. Lewis's Critique of Both Nietzsche and the Enlightenment  
Reading: Lewis, entire
- 10/16/07
1. Lecture: MacIntyre and Johnson on the Enlightenment  
Reading: MacIntyre Ch 1-4 *or* Johnson Ch 1-3
  2. In class screening: *Decalogue 2*
- 10/23/07
1. Lecture: Critique of Enlightenment Rationality  
Reading: MacIntyre Ch 5-8 *or* Johnson Ch 4-5
  2. In class screening: *Decalogue 3*
- 10/30/07
1. Midterm Exam
  2. In class screening: *Decalogue 4*
- 11/6/07
1. Lecture: Aristotle and Virtue  
Reading: Darwall Ch 17-19
  2. In class screening: *Decalogue 5*
- 11/13/07
1. Lecture: The Narrative Self  
Reading: MacIntyre Ch 9-13 *or* Johnson Ch 6-7
  2. In class screening: *Decalogue 6*
- 11/20/07
1. Lecture: The Moral Imagination  
Reading: MacIntyre Ch 14-18 *or* Johnson Ch 8-10
  2. In class screening: *Decalogue 7*
- 11/27/07
1. Lecture: Christian Ethics as Narrative Virtue Ethics  
Reading: Hauerwas Ch 1-4
  2. In class screening: *Decalogue 8*
- 12/4/07
1. Lecture: Art, Worship, and Ethics  
Reading: Hauerwas Ch 5-8
  2. In class screening: *Decalogue 9*
- 12/11/07
- Final Exam Week: class meets 4:45-6:45pm.  
No Exam: Term Paper Due  
In class screening: *Decalogue 10*

### **Bibliography:**

[Further reading on sources that informed the professor's approach to this course.]

1. Annas, Julia. *The Morality of Happiness*. (Oxford, 1993)
2. Hauerwas, Stanley and Samuel Wells, eds. *The Blackwell Companion to Christian Ethics* (Blackwell, 2006)
3. Kallenberg, Brad. *Ethics as Grammar: Changing the Postmodern Subject* (Notre Dame, 2001)
4. Kickasola, Joseph G. *The Liminal Image: The Films of Krzysztof Kieslowski* (Continuum, 2004)
5. MacIntyre, Alasdair. *Whose Justice? Which Rationality?*, Reprint ed. (Notre Dame, 1989)
6. Nussbaum, Martha C. *Love's Knowledge: Essays on Philosophy and Literature* (Oxford, 1992)
7. Pinches, Charles. *Theology and Action: After Theory in Christian Ethics* (Eerdmans, 2002)
8. Smith, R. Scott. *Virtue Ethics and Moral Knowledge: Philosophy of Language After MacIntyre and Hauerwas* (Ashgate, 2003)
9. Taylor, Charles. *Sources of the Self: The Making of Modern Identity*, Reprint ed. (Harvard, 1992)
10. Willard, Dallas. *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God* (HarperSanFrancisco, 1998)