Course Objectives: 1. To stimulate philosophical reflection about ethics. 2. To introduce students to some of the skills of philosophical thinking: searching for consistency and coherence of beliefs, clarifying questions, ferreting out presuppositions, weighing reasoning and evidence, and exploring alternative accounts of disputed concepts. 3. To improve writing skills, especially through increasing the ability to structure and organize chains of reasoning.

Requirements: This class is not delivered on-line or by e-mail. Class attendance is required. Class attendance, punctuality, participation and discussion are important, and will make the crucial difference in the course grade if the student's final average is near the borderline between two grades. Students must read the assignment before coming to class. Three four-page papers are required. Specific topics and detailed instructions will be given out in class and posted on my website. This is a "Gordon Rule" course, and grades reflect all elements of writing--grammar, punctuation, sentence and paragraph structure, clarity of expression, and essay structure--as well as the quality of the reasoning and philosophical understanding. There will be a comprehensive final examination. Each paper and the final examination will count as 1/4 of the final average for the course. Note that since this is a "Gordon Rule" course, a student cannot pass without completing all required writing. Incompletes will be given only in cases of unforeseeable and severe circumstances beyond the student's control, such as documented illness or injury.

Jan. 9, 11, 13 Introduction (afterwards read pp. 1-7); Epicurus pp. 11-16; Mill pp. 17-26
Jan. 16 Martin Luther King Holiday—University Closed
Jan. 18, 20 Smart pp. 92-101; Rand pp. 84-91
Jan. 30, Feb. 1, 3 Kant pp. 102-14; Ross pp. 126-37
Feb. 6, 8, 10 1st paper due Feb. 6 Aristotle pp. 138-49; Kazek 49-60; St. Thomas selections
Feb. 13, 15, 17 Hume pp. 165-74; Ayer pp. 175-87; Mackie pp. 188-97
Feb. 20, 22, 24 Gensler pp. 198-206; Bennett pp. 251-65
Feb. 27, 29, Mar. 2 Smith pp. 207-16; Bambrough pp. 217-26
Mar. 5, 7, 9 2nd paper due Mar. 5 Taylor pp. 37-48; Rachels pp. 266-71
Mar. 12--17 Spring Break
Mar. 19, 21, 23 Terrorism and Torture pp. 282-306
Mar. 26, 28, 30 Abortion pp. 351-87
Comprehensive Final Exam: Wed., Ap. 25, 7:30—9:30 (time is tentative—check your home-page) Students must provide their own blue-books.