

Instructor: Kevin Patton  
Course: PHIL 3060  
Day: Totally Online  
Time: N/A  
Location: The Cloud

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# Values and Virtues

July 5th - August 12th

“My desire and wish is that the things I start with should be so obvious that you wonder why I spend my time stating them. This is what I aim at because the point of philosophy is to start with something so simple as not to seem worth stating, and to end with something so paradoxical that no one will believe it.”

Bertrand Russell from *The Philosophy of Logical Atomism* 1918.

## Course Overview

This course explores advanced topics in ethics with particular emphasis on value theory and virtue ethics. Topics to be considered include the meaning and status of value claims, sources of value, intrinsic goods, agent-relative goods, practical reason, moral development, happiness, moral ambiguity, moral luck, the identification of virtues, and relationships of care, trust, and responsibility. This course supports the Ethics and Values concentration in the Master of Arts in Critical and Creative Thinking. (Cross-listed with CACT 8215)

## Required Materials

*All required materials will be posted on Canvas. You already paid for the class, so you shouldn't have to pay for books!*

## Course Information

Summer 2022  
Edited on: July 1, 2022

**Preparation:** This course may be very challenging for you if you are not accustomed to reasoning in a rigorous fashion. If this is true of you, then you will only do well in this class if you dedicate much of your outside-of-class-time to practicing and mastering the relevant topics covered. Also, the only dumb questions are the ones you don't ask. If you are confused about something, then there is a high likelihood that someone else is too!

**Attendance:** Attendance is not required since this class is 'totally online'

**Website:** All course material, including the textbook, will be available exclusively on Canvas.

## Evaluation

### Grading Scale

|    |              |    |              |
|----|--------------|----|--------------|
| A+ | 96.7 - 100%  | C+ | 76.7 - 79.9% |
| A  | 93.3 - 96.6% | C  | 73.3 - 76.6% |
| A- | 90 - 93.2%   | C- | 70 - 73.2%   |
| B+ | 86.7 - 89.9  | D+ | 66.7 - 69.9  |
| B  | 83.3 - 86.6% | D  | 63.3 - 66.6% |
| B- | 80 - 83.2%   | D- | 60 - 63.2%   |

F  
Below 60%

**Exposition Paper: 20%**  
**Podcast Presentations: 30%**  
**Podcast Comments and Discussion: 20%**  
**Final Paper: 30%**

**Exposition Paper:** After the end of the 3rd week of our class (see specific date below) a short 5 page paper will be required. The topic of this paper will be largely flexible so long as the paper focuses on one or more of the authors that we have covered up until the paper's due date. Unlike the final paper, the purpose of the paper is to ensure that you are able to explain the view of another person correctly (even if you passionately disagree with them). Details to come as the due date approaches.

**Podcasts and Discussions:** At the end of each week you will be required to record and upload a (roughly) 10 minute audio or video recording. The topic to be discussed in each recording is, again, largely flexible so long as the topic is something that we have covered that week. Think of each 'pod' as a short verbal essay on something that struck you as interesting (or absurd!). Each 'episode' will be uploaded to Canvas and accessible to all other students. Part of your grade for this section also requires you to listen and comment on at least 3 pods over the course of the class. Please note: ***you cannot simply reply to 3 episodes in the first week and be done.*** Each response that you give must be from different weeks. The uploading of each episode, and the commenting on others uploads, will occur under the 'Discussion' section of Canvas.

**Final Paper:** A final paper will be due by the end of the summer session. In general, such papers require you to properly explain a position / argument, followed by a sustained critique of the position / argument. There will be a rubric, followed by guidelines for the paper as we get closer to the end of the summer session.

# Policies

- **Academic Integrity:** The penalty for academic dishonesty (e.g., collaborating on problem sets, cheating on exams) will be failure of the course and the case's being forwarded to Student Judicial Affairs for possible disciplinary action. Make yourself familiar with UNO's Student Code of Conduct, available [online](#). **In this course, the normal penalty for any violation of the code is an "F" for the semester.** Violations may have additional consequences including expulsion from the university. Don't plagiarize – it just isn't worth it.
- **University Policies:** I respect and uphold university policies and regulations pertaining to the observation of religious holidays; assistance available to physically handicapped, visually and/or hearing impaired students; plagiarism; sexual harassment; and racial or ethnic discrimination. All students are advised to become familiar with the respective university regulations and are encouraged to bring any questions or concerns to the attention of the instructor.
- **ADA:** In compliance with University policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for students with disabilities. Students are encouraged to register with Student Disability Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.
- **Misc.:** Please turn off cell phones, beeping watches, and other gadgets that make noise before entering our classroom. Absolutely no texting is permitted during class. I will subtract up to five points from your participation grade each and every time your phone rings or I see you texting during class.

# Further Resources

- **Jargon:** It's important to be on top of the technical terms used by philosophers. Please ask for clarification of terms in class. You can also consult Jim Pryor's online "[Philosophical Terms and Methods](#)." This is less important in this class than in more 'normal' philosophy classes, but it may help.
- **Reference:** The [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) is an excellent online resource, though entries can be lengthy. The [Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) has shorter entries, but it is not as scholarly.
- I may post some additional readings on my website if the assigned reading does not explain something with sufficient clarity.

# Assignment Calendar

| Dates                    | Activities  |
|--------------------------|---|
| Week 1: July 5-10        | Post Introductions on Canvas Discussion Board; Read Frankl; (on Canvas); <a href="#">Read entire SEP entry on Virtue Ethics</a> ; Post first Podcast by 11:59 pm on 7/10        |
| Week 2: July 11-17       | Read Korsgaard (on Canvas); <a href="#">Read entire SEP entry on Value Theory</a> ; Post second Podcast by 11:59 pm on 7/17   |
| Week 3: July 18-24       | Read Ross (on Canvas); <a href="#">Read entire SEP entry on Intrinsic vs Extrinsic Value</a> ; Post third Podcast by 11:59 pm on 7/24; Exposition Paper Due by 11:59 pm on 7/24 |
| Week 4: July 25-31       | Read Foot (on Canvas); <a href="#">Read entire IEP entry on Cynics</a> ; Post fourth Podcast by 11:59 pm on 7/31  |
| Week 5: Aug 1-7          | Read Pritchard (on Canvas); <a href="#">Read entire SEP entry on Virtue Theory in Epistemology</a> ; Post fifth Podcast by 11:59 pm on 8/7                                      |
| Week 6: Aug 8-12         | Paper Drafting and Discussion; Post sixth Podcast by 11:59 pm on 8/12 (this pod will be a summary of what your final paper will be about)                                       |
| End of course: August 12 | Final Paper and all remaining discussion comments or assignments are due by 11:59 pm on August 12.  |