

Philosophy 3314: Moral Issues in Business

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Office Hours Tues/Thurs 1pm-2pm

Required Texts:

Rachels, James (2012) *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, 7th ed. (by Stuart Rachels) McGraw-Hill.
(Additional Readings to be provided)

- 8/28 Introductions
- 8/30 Thinking and arguing about Ethics
- 9/4 Meta-Ethical Issues: Religion (Rachels, Ch. 4, p. 49-63)
- 9/6 Meta-Ethical Issues: Culture (Rachels, Ch. 2, p. 14-31)
- 9/11 Meta-Ethical Issues: Culture (Rachels, Ch. 2, p. 14-31)
- 9/13 Sweatshops (Maitland PDF on BlackBoard)
- 9/18 **No Class**
- 9/20 Social Contract Theory (Rachels, Ch. 6, p. 82-97)
- 9/25 **No Class**
- 9/27 Social Contract Theory (Rachels, Ch. 6, p. 82-97)
- 10/2 Questions of Social Justice (Nozick PDF on BlackBoard)
- 10/4 Ethical Egoism (Rachels, Ch. 5, p. 64-81)
- 10/9 Ethical Egoism (Rachels, Ch. 5, p. 64-81)
- 10/11 Utilitarianism (Rachels, Ch. 7, p. 98-109)
- 10/16 Questions of Social Justice (Rawls PDF on BlackBoard)
- 10/18 Utilitarianism (Rachels, Ch. 8, p. 110-124)
- 10/23 Famine, Affluence, and Morality (Singer PDF on BlackBoard)
- 10/25 Review

10/30 **Midterm**

11/1 Kant and Absolute Moral Rules (Rachels, Ch. 9, p. 125-135)

11/6 Kant and Respect for Persons (Rachels, Ch. 10, p. 136-141)

11/8 Theories of Punishment/Punishing Corporations (Rachels, Ch. 10, p.141-145)

11/13 Virtue Ethics (Rachels, Ch. 12, p. 157-172)

11/15 Virtue Ethics (Rachels, Ch. 12, p. 157-172)

11/20 Corporate Social Responsibility? (Friedman PDF on BlackBoard)

11/22 **No Class**

11/27 The Ethics of Care (Rachels, Ch. 11, p. 146-156)

11/29 The Ethics of Care (Rachels, Ch. 11, p. 146-156)

12/4 Issues in Business: Wages, Working Conditions, Discrimination, Harassment

12/6 Issues in Business: Advertising, Public Relations, Whistle-Blowing

12/11 Issues in Business: Environmental impact, Externalities, Bureaucracy

12/13 Review

Final Exam TBA

Methods of Assessment:

Midterm Exam:	30%
Final Exam:	30%
Term Paper:	30%
Participation:	10%

Course Objectives:

- 1) Students will improve critical thinking by developing skills of explaining, critically examining, and responding to philosophical theories, issues, and claims in the philosophical area of ethics.
- 2) Students will gain familiarity with major modern ethical theories and the way in which they relate to practice.
- 3) Students will be able to show that issues may be regarded from multiple viewpoints, and will be able to present reasons in support of each viewpoint.
- 4) Students will become cognizant of the various ethical issues raised in the practice of business and how these issues may be resolved by different ethical theories.
- 5) Students will improve reasoning skills and ethical decision making skills by acquiring an understanding of ethical theories and philosophical concepts that will enable them to develop their own opinions on conceptions and practices of moral interaction and democracy.

6) Students will be able to explain several classic ethical theories, to compare and contrast ethical theories, and to apply these to justify conclusions relating to concrete moral issues.

7) Students will develop an openness to having their beliefs challenged, will learn to hear and comprehend the views of others, and to entertain objections to their own views.

University policy on Academic Integrity:

The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for implementing that policy can be found at this site:

<http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies>. If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity and, upon investigation, confirms that violation, or if the student admits the violation, the faculty member MUST report the violation.

Center for Student Disability Services:

In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services. Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to set up an appointment with the Director of the Center for Student Disability Services, Ms. Valerie Stewart-Lovell at 718-951-5538. If you have already registered with the Center for Student Disability Services please provide your professor with the course accommodation form and discuss your specific accommodation with him/her.

Nonattendance because of religious beliefs:

Title I, Article 5, Section 224-a of the New York State Education Law provides that:

"1. No person shall be expelled from or be refused admission as a student to an institution of higher education for the reason that he [or she] is unable, because of his [or her] religious beliefs, to attend classes or to participate in any examination, study or work requirements on a particular day or days.

"2. Any student in an institution of higher education who is unable, because of his [or her] religious beliefs, to attend classes on a particular day or days shall, because of such absence on the particular day or days, be excused from any examination or any study or work requirements.

"3. It shall be the responsibility of the faculty and of the administrative officials of each institution of higher education to make available to each student who is absent from school, because of his [or her] religious beliefs, an equivalent opportunity to make up any examination, study or work requirements which he [or she] may have missed because of such absence on any particular day or days. No fees of any kind shall be charged by the institution for making available to the said student such equivalent opportunity.

"4. If classes, examinations, study or work requirements are held on Friday after four o'clock post meridian or on Saturday, similar or makeup classes, examinations, study or work requirements shall be made available on other days, where it is possible and practicable to do so. No special fees shall be charged to the student for these classes, examinations, study or work requirements held on other days.

"5. In effectuating the provisions of this section, it shall be the duty of the faculty and of the administrative officials of each institution of higher education to exercise the fullest measure of good faith. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student because of his [or her] availing himself [or herself] of the provisions of this section. "6. Any student, who is aggrieved by the alleged failure of any faculty or administrative officials to comply in good faith with the provisions of this section, shall be entitled to maintain an action or proceeding in the supreme court of the county in which such institution of higher education is located for the enforcement of his [or her] rights under this section."