

# **PHIL 3320 ETHICS**

**Class Number 18208 Section MQ6**

**Mon 6:05 – 9:25 PM 3305 Boylan**

**Instructor: Angelica Nuzzo**

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The aim of this course is to offer a general introduction to the discipline of ethics. We will study 'foundational' texts such as Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, Kant's *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*, and J.S. Mill's *Utilitarianism*. We will focus both on the philosophical reflection about 'ethics' - namely on 'ethical theories' and 'ethical concepts' - and on the morality embodied in and defined by ethical concepts. I will give an outline of the major problems of philosophical ethics as well as an introduction to the history of ethics, pointing out that ethics is a constitutive part of social life, and that its forms vary according with the changes in society.

We will also study the structures of ethical discourse, the language of ethics, and the character of moral reasoning. Selected texts taken from the history of ethics as well as from different ethical traditions (India, China) will represent the basis of our discussions. The course will give the students an opportunity to think about the integration within ethical theory of contemporary moral issues that have a gendered, multicultural focus.

The format of the course includes both lecture and class discussion on major ethical issues. Students will also be required to do class presentation work (individual and group work).