Ethics is the area of philosophy where we consider what makes a person or action morally good. Of all the major areas of philosophy, ethics is perhaps the one that has the most significance for everyday life; nearly every single person and social institution has an ethical code according to which they act in the world. In this class, you will be introduced to the three major schools of philosophical ethics (utilitarianism, deontology, and virtue ethics), as well as three ethical theories that are not as well-known, but have made major contributions to the field (existentialism, naturalized ethics, and care ethics). The goal of this class is for you to be able to critically evaluate the ethical implications for real-world situations from a variety of perspectives. No prior background in philosophy is necessary.

Because this is a three-and-a-half week intensive course, the reading load may at times be very heavy. You will be asked to write three short papers and do one in-class presentation on a topic of your choice. You will also be expected complete the readings by the day they are assigned on the syllabus, attend all (or nearly all) class periods, and give yourself enough time to think through and write your papers. Please ensure that you have enough free time during these three and a half weeks to dedicate yourself to the work for this class.

Grade Breakdown
Papers: 60% (3 papers at 20% each)
Presentation: 20%
Attendance and Participation: 20%

Papers
During the term, there will be three (3-page) short papers. They will always be due on a Monday. You may write on any one of the readings assigned on the week prior to the due date. Every week, regardless of the readings, the topic and the structure of the paper will be the same. Please answer the following questions about the reading of your choice:

1. Give a summary of the argument. Be sure to define any key concepts used by the author as you give your summary.
2. Give an example of how this moral argument can be applied to a real-life situation. It can be a hypothetical example (i.e., you can make it up), one from personal experience, or one from the news, history, etc. Explain how that author would propose this particular moral dilemma would be resolved, and why.
3. Consider how someone might object to the moral decision suggested by this particular author. What is s/he overlooking, could this decision be read as “wrong”, and why? How would this objector propose to resolve the situation instead?
4. Finally, explain where you stand on the issue. Do you agree with the author? Or the imagined objector? Or both? Or neither? Give reasons for your position.
Presentations
Week Four will be dedicated to student presentations on issues in applied ethics (e.g., environmental ethics, medical ethics, business ethics, ethics of war, etc.). You will put together a presentation with one other classmate on one philosophical essay dealing with a topic of your choice. You may choose your partner, but if you don’t have a preference, you will be assigned a partner based on your preferred topic. Presentations will last about fifteen minutes, along with a five-minute question-and-answer period at the end. Each presenter should have equal speaking time. Visual aids (power points, handouts, etc) are encouraged but not required. I will pass around a questionnaire at the end of Week One that asks for your preferred partner (if applicable) as well as the topics that are most interesting to you. Your partner and topic will be confirmed at the beginning of Week Two, and during Weeks Two and Three I will work with you to choose an essay to present and go over any questions you might have about the assignment (materials will be provided by me). Aside from the presentation itself, you will also need to write a one-page summary of the essay you presented, due on Friday, August 16. This write-up will comprise a portion of your presentation grade.

Attendance and Participation
You will be expected to participate regularly, thoughtfully, and respectfully in class discussion. I do not plan on lecturing for the entire two hours of each class, as philosophy is best learned by asking questions and by engaging in dialogue with others. Aside from encouraging you to participate, my in-class ground rules are: 1. be respectful of others, 2. Print out readings and bring them to class (they will all be on Blackboard) and 3. NO ELECTRONICS! If I catch you with a cell phone, laptop, tablet, etc. you will be marked as "absent" from that class. The only exception to this rule is if you have a documented disability that requires you to have an electronic device.

Attendance is mandatory. I will allow two unexcused absences throughout the term; every unexcused absence thereafter will affect your grade. I will excuse absences on a case-by-case basis, but will almost always require documentation confirming the reason for your absence (e.g., a doctor’s note).

Academic Dishonesty
The Philosophy department abides by the University's policies for instances of academic dishonesty, which includes cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism. Anyone who is found to have committed such an act will receive an "F" for the course. If you have any questions about what might count as academic dishonesty, please check in with me as soon as possible.

Accessibility
If you have a documented need for special accommodation (from a doctor or from the Accessible Education Center) please notify me as soon as possible.
Schedule of Readings
All of the readings will be posted on Blackboard. Please print out readings and bring them to class. Reading schedule subject to change – announcements will be made in class and on Blackboard.

**Week 1: What is Morality? Why Should We Be Moral?**
7/22 Introduction to the course
7/23 William Golding, excerpt from *Lord of the Flies*
7/24 Judith Boss, “Relativism in Ethics,” “Moving Beyond Ethical Relativism,” “Morality and Religion,” “Universality and Religious Ethics,”
7/25 Friedrich Nietzsche, “Beyond Good and Evil”
7/26 Mark Johnson, “Moral Imagination”

**Week 2: Utilitarianism and Deontology**
7/29 paper # 1 due
   Jeremy Bentham, "Classical Utilitarianism"
   John Stuart Mill, "Utilitarianism"
7/30 Peter Singer, “All Animals are Equal”
   Harriet McByrde Johnson, “Unspeakable Conversations”
7/31 Kant, excerpt from *Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Ethics*
   William Frankena, "Kant's Theory"
8/1 Emmanuel Levinas, 'The Name of a Dog, or Natural Rights' (BB)
   Thomas Nagel, "Moral Luck"
8/2 In-class film screening: *Bernie*

**Week 3: Virtue Ethics, Existentialism, and Care Ethics**
8/5 paper #2 due
   discussion of *Bernie*
   Aristotle, selections from *Nicomachean Ethics*
8/6 Epictetus, "The Stoic Catechism"
   Jesus of Nazareth, "Sermon on the Mount"
8/7 William Frankena, "A Critique of Virtue-Based Ethical Systems"
8/8 Simone de Beauvoir, "Ambiguity and Freedom"
8/9 Carol Gilligan, "Concepts of Self and Morality"
   quiz 3

**Week 4: Applied Ethics**
8/12 paper #3 due
   student presentations
8/13 student presentations
8/14 student presentations
8/15 No class
8/16 One-page summary of presentation material, due by 4pm in the Philosophy Department office