

## Topics in the History of Philosophy

### I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The focus of this course will be the discussions of friendship in Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* and Kant's *Metaphysics of Morals*. Friendship is a familiar phenomenon. Nonetheless, parts of Aristotle and Kant's discussions of it are notoriously difficult to interpret. In his *Nicomachean Ethics*, Aristotle says that a friend is another self. We will try to understand this idea. And we will consider the role the idea plays in his Book IX chapter 9 explanation of why a virtuous person needs friends. In his *Metaphysics of Morals*, Kant describes a kind of relationship that he calls 'moral friendship'. This is supposed to be a relationship in which participants are able to freely share with each other a wide range of feelings and judgments, including ones about "associates, government, religion" that it might be dangerous to share with a wider or unfamiliar audience. Kant may think that it is very important for people to have the opportunity to participate in moral friendships. We will consider reasons for thinking this.

Lectures for this course will be held online Tuesday and Thursday 1pm-3:05pm.  
Lectures will not be recorded.

Discussion Section 1A will meet online on Tuesday 9:30am-10:20am.  
Discussion Section 1B will meet online on Thursday 11:30am-12:20pm.

Links for lecture, section meetings, office hours will be available on the course website.

### II. INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Melissa Retkwa  
[philosophygrad-r@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:philosophygrad-r@humnet.ucla.edu)  
Office Hours: online, time tbd

### III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Section Attendance and Participation 20%  
Take-home Midterm Exam 35%  
Final Paper 45%

**Section Attendance and Participation** – Students are expected to attend and participate in discussion section for this course each week. Section attendance and participation grades will be assigned with this in mind.

**Take-home Midterm Exam** – The midterm exam for this course will have two parts – one consisting of short answer questions and one asking for an essay response. Each short answer question should be answered in about a paragraph. The essay question should be answered in about 2 pages (double-spaced, normal font and formatting). Students can use the class texts and notes when completing the midterm exam. However, collaboration with other students is not permitted. The midterm will be distributed on 7/11 and is due by 11:59pm on 7/17. Midterms should be submitted to turnitin. If an extension is not granted, a late submission will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade for each day it is late (e.g. an A- paper that is turned in one day late will receive a B+).

**Final Paper** - A 5-page final paper is due by 11:59pm on 7/29. Paper topics will be distributed on 7/18. Papers should be submitted to turnitin. If an extension is not granted, a late submission will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade for each day it is late.

#### **IV. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be investigated and, as required, reported. Academic dishonesty can include cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration. Students can refer to the Student Conduct Code for more information about what qualifies as academic dishonesty and what procedures the university has for addressing it.

[http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Portals/16/Documents/UCLACodeOfConduct\\_Rev030416.pdf](http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Portals/16/Documents/UCLACodeOfConduct_Rev030416.pdf)

#### **V. ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

Students needing academic accommodations based on a disability should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) at (310)825-1501 or in person at Murphy Hall A255. When possible, students should contact the CAE within the first two weeks of the term as reasonable notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. For more information visit [www.cae.ucla.edu](http://www.cae.ucla.edu).

#### **VI. REQUIRED READINGS**

All readings for this course will be made available through the course website.

#### **VII. SCHEDULE**

##### **Week 1**

Tuesday 6/21: Plato *Lysis*

Thursday 6/23: Aristotle *Nicomachean Ethics* Book 1 (selections)

##### **Week 2**

Tuesday 6/28: Aristotle *Nicomachean Ethics* Book 8

Thursday 6/30: Aristotle *Nicomachean Ethics* Book 9

##### **Week 3**

Tuesday 7/5: Aristotle *Nicomachean Ethics* Book 9

Thursday 7/7: Alexander Nehamas "The Good of Friendship"

##### **Week 4**

\*Take-home Midterm Exam distributed Monday 7/11

Tuesday 7/12: Kant *Metaphysics of Morals* – Introduction to the Metaphysics of Morals, Introduction to the Doctrine of Virtue (selections)

Thursday 7/14: Kant *Metaphysics of Morals* – Duties of Virtue to Others (selections)

### **Week 5**

\*Take-home Midterm Exam due by 11:59pm Sunday 7/17

\*Final Paper Topics distributed Monday 7/18

Tuesday 7/19: Kant *Metaphysics of Morals* – On Rights to Persons Akin to Rights to Things (selections); Barbara Herman “Could it be worth thinking about Kant on sex and marriage?”

Thursday 7/21: Mill *Utilitarianism* (selections); Mill *Considerations on Representative Government* (selections)

### **Week 6**

Tuesday 7/26: Mill *On Liberty* (selections)

Thursday 7/28: Seana Shiffrin “A Thinker-Based Approach to Freedom of Speech”

\*Final Paper due by 11:59pm Friday 7/29