

Course: PHIL 130: Ethics

1. Date of Application: 11/19/201
2. Name, Dept of Proposer: W. Harter, Philosophy
3. Name of Dept/Program housing course: Philosophy
4. Name of Chair/PD: W. Harter
5. How often is the course taught:yearly
6. Course Prerequisites:none
7. Unit value of course:1
- 8: Normal Class Size: 25
9. Number of sections expected Fall 2012:1
10. Number of sections expected Spring 2013:0
11. Is the course appropriate for first-year students: Yes
12. Relevant Learning Goal(s):Theological Understanding, Common Good
13. Chair will oversee submission of student work: Yes
14. Chair will oversee instructor participation in norming/asst: Yes

15. Teaching: "Ethics is all about ruling and being ruled. But, to understand and resolve the practical problem of rule and its relation to the highest good attained through action, happiness, ethics is also concerned with the problems of habituation and shareability, virtue and vice, pleasure and pain, good and evil, being and having, appearance and reality, poetry and philosophy, violence and lying.

The course begins with close readings of Plato, Aristotle and the Bible, keeping front and center the question of happiness, and how we might find our way to it by navigating the labyrinthine problems caused by human rule. Sometimes we hear of two ways through, expressed in the disjunctive, "'Athens or Jerusalem?'" Yet, another possibility arises when we consider the presumed opposition of faith and reason. Is the "'philosophical way of life'" really opposed to the "'way of Christian faith'"? Is there really two ways through? Or is there only one?

In short, this course places the common good of political life under the light of theological faith, in order to see what relation exists between the sharable good of the social and political orders, and that of the natural desire for the First Good. It is a relationship often appealed to, for instance in the Declaration of Independence of the United States, but it is not easily apprehended as a practical problem (apart from whether it is apprehended theoretically from "'self-evident'" principles)."

16. Learning: "This course is taught in the mode of seminar; each day each student is expected to be ready to summarize and refine a discussion beginning in the texts, but developing through shared inquiry with the class. At midterm each student will meet with the instructor for oral examination, to evaluate his or her developing capacity for the following Theological Explorations outcomes (assessed by final examination):

1. To distinguish an argument beginning from principles of human reason, from one beginning from articles of faith.
2. To evidence a fundamental grasp of the role and limitation of critical science, of philosophical wisdom, when employed ancilla theologiae.
3. To read the Bible in terms of types and anti-types, in light of Aquinas's "'Four senses of Scripture'".

4. To explain the object of ethics qua practical science, the highest human happiness, in light of the "natural desire for a supernatural end"

5. To explain the object of politics, the common good as *ordinis tranquillitas*, when understood within the natural law tradition descending from Aquinas.

6. To explain how the philosophical problem of ruling and being ruled is given new form when seen in light of Christian faith."