



ETHICS

AN INTRODUCTORY PHILOSOPHICAL EXAMINATION OF ETHICAL THEORIES THROUGH FICTION AND NON-FICTION

PHILOSOPHY 530
SPRING 2021
T & R 3:40 – 5:00 (WI)
PAUL MCNAMARA

“WHAT IS THE NATURE OF JUSTICE?”

“IS JUSTICE CENTRAL TO MORALITY?”

“DOES MORALITY HAVE A PURPOSE; IF SO, WHAT?”

“DOES MORALITY REQUIRE A RELIGIOUS FOUNDATION?”

“HOW ARE RATIONALITY AND MORALITY RELATED?”

“IS IT EVER WRONG TO ACT IN YOUR BEST INTEREST?”

“DO ALL MORALLY RIGHT ACTIONS HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON THAT MAKES THEM RIGHT? IF SO, WHAT?”

“ARE RIGHT AND WRONG JUST MATTERS OF OPINION OR CULTURAL CONVENTION?”

THIS COURSE IS an *introduction to Normative Ethical Theory*, a tradition of systematic inquiry aimed at developing theories identifying and justifying general criteria for moral evaluations of actions, people, motives, intentions, character traits, rules, laws, etc.

We will examine the *main western secular theories* that have been offered, and aim to make a reflective and balanced assessment of each theory's overall strengths and weaknesses.

We will employ classical and contemporary philosophical *readings* in tandem with fiction (mostly short stories).

There will be two exams, a term paper, and periodic quizzes & short writing exercises.

For more info please e-mail me at paulm@unh.edu