

HON 308W/HON 312W/PSY 497: **Good and Evil**

Spring Semester, 2014 TR 2:00 – 3:15	Case Annex 151 3 Credits
CRN 24824/24831/23412	
All course documents available on Blackboard	

Professors:	Mike Austin Case Annex 260 622-1022 mike.austin@eku.edu	Matthew P. Winslow Cammack 216 622-6171 matthew.winslow@eku.edu
Office Hour:	MWF 1:25-2:15 T/TH 12:30-1:45 @michaelwaustin	By appointment I'm on facebook, twitter @mpwinslow

Course Description

This course examines issues related to good and evil from the perspectives of psychology and philosophy. We will examine the nature of good and evil by exploring arguments for and against the claim that there are objective moral truths which we can know. We will also consider the possible causes of good and evil making use of empirical and philosophical argumentation. Finally, we will examine our perception of good and evil, and consider relevant psychological and philosophical approaches to this issue.

PSY 497 Course Description

A. Prerequisites: PSY 250, and ENG 102 or ENG 105(B) or HON 102, or departmental approval. Selected topics for study. Variable topics across semesters in terms of student interest and available faculty. May be retaken, provided the subject matter differs each time.

Student Learning Outcomes

This course addresses the following Student Learning Outcomes:

Honors:

Students will be able to:

1. Use appropriate methods of critical thinking and quantitative reasoning to examine issues and to identify solutions. (GE Goal 2)
2. Analyze the historical and social contexts of cultural, economic, political, religious, and scientific developments. (GE Goal 3)
3. Analyze the values, cultural context, and aesthetic qualities of artistic, literary, philosophic, and/or religious works. (GE Goal 6)
4. Distinguish the methods that underlie the search for knowledge in the arts, humanities, natural sciences, history, and social and behavioral sciences. (GE Goal 7)
5. Integrate knowledge that will deepen their understanding of, and will inform their own choices about, issues of personal and public importance. (GE Goal 8)

How assessed: research paper, presentation, exams.

Psychology:

1. Demonstrate the ability to gather, synthesize, and critically analyze psychological reasoning and science and present it in a well-written format. **How assessed:** exams and research paper.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of different psychological perspectives related to issues of good and evil and their relationship to areas of human concern. **How assessed:** exams, class discussion and research paper.
3. Verbally articulate complex information in an interesting presentation on a topic related to good and evil. **How assessed:** presentation.
4. Develop their own views on a variety of questions related to good and evil. **How assessed:** class discussion.

Course structure and requirements:

Class meetings:

Attendance at all class meetings is required. If you attend all class meetings, you will receive a bonus of 2% added on to your **final grade**. You are allowed to miss one class meeting (excluding the presentation classes) and still get your 2% **if you have a legitimate (documented) excuse**. If you miss more than one (or even one without a legitimate excuse) but three or fewer class meetings, you will get 1% added on. If you miss four or five, you get zero bonus points. If you miss more than five, but eight or fewer classes, you lose 1%, and if you miss more than eight, you lose 2%. If you miss more than eight classes, you likely won't pass the class anyway.

<u>Number of days missed</u>	<u>Result</u>
0 (or 1 with legitimate excuse)	+2%
1 – 3	+1%
4 – 5	0%
6 – 8	-1%
9 or more	-2%

Readings:

Students are expected to read the assigned material for each class *before* coming to class. Seriously. Because lectures and discussions will most often be extensions of the reading for that class, we will assume that you are familiar with the reading assignments.

Here are the books you will need for the class:

Baron-Cohen, Simon. (2011). *The Science of Evil: On Empathy and the Origins of Cruelty*. Basic Books.

Cathcart, Thomas. (2013). *The Trolley Problem: Or, Would You Throw the Fat Guy Off the Bridge? A Philosophical Conundrum*. Workman Publishing, New York.

Keown, Damien. (2013). *Buddhist Ethics: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Pieper, Josef. (1966/2011). *The Four Cardinal Virtues*. University of Notre Dame Press, Notre Dame.

Zimbardo, Philip. (2008). *The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil*. Random House, New York.

Note: Other Selected Philosophy Readings will be provided as pdf's or links on Blackboard.

The rest of the readings will be from articles that you can find through EKU's library using PsycINFO (or perhaps using google). We assume you are proficient in finding electronic resources. You are responsible for getting the articles in time to read them before class. We will not accept any excuse about not being able to get the articles. If you have trouble getting any reading, contact one of us **IMMEDIATELY**. There may be additions or substitutions to the reading list during the semester.

Here are the full citations for other readings (in the order we will get to them):

Baumeister, R. F. (2012). Human evil: The myth of pure evil and the true causes of violence. In M. Mukulincer, P. R. Shaver (Eds.), *The social psychology of morality: Exploring the causes of good and evil* (pp. 367-380). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Marks, J. (2012). An Amoral Manifesto. *Philosophy Now*, Nov/Dec 2012.
http://philosophynow.org/issues/80/An_Amoral_Manifesto_Part_I

Assignments, Papers and Examinations

1. **Three examinations**, 100 points each. These will be taken on Blackboard and will consist of several essay questions based on the readings and our discussions in class. They will be open book, but we strongly suggest you study carefully for them before taking them. The questions will be heavy on analysis, synthesis and evaluation, and light on memorization.

2. **One research paper**, of approximately 10 pages in length, 100 pts. More on this later.

3. **Research Presentation**, 100 points. In the last two weeks of the semester, students will have in-class presentations about a topic of their choice from the text or lectures. All topics must be approved both instructors in advance (we will hand out a worksheet to assist with the approval process). It is preferred that students work alone, but group projects will be accepted if there is a very compelling reason for them. Presentations are expected to be 10 – 12 minutes in length.

5. **Research Paper Consultation**: All students are required to schedule and attend a meeting with a writing consultant at the Noel Studio. Detailed information on Noel Studio services and scheduling appears below, along with advice regarding preparation for your individual consultation. At the conclusion of the appointment, the consultant will provide a verification form and summary of the meeting. Students must submit the form to Dr. Winslow by the date listed in the table. The consultation will be assigned one of the following grades:

30 points: Form submitted timely, summary shows that student prepared for the visit and brought a draft and other materials with him/her to the meeting.

15 points: Form submitted timely, student attended session and had done some preparation, but neglected to bring draft/materials or such material was insufficient to take full advantage of services.

0 points: Form submitted late or not at all, student failed to prepare for session.

7. Presentation Consultation: All students are required to schedule and attend a meeting with a presentation consultant at the Noel Studio. Detailed information on Noel Studio services and scheduling appears below, along with advice regarding preparation for your individual consultation. At the conclusion of the appointment, the consultant will provide a verification form and summary of the meeting. Students must submit the form to Dr. Winslow by the date listed in the table. The consultation will be assigned one of the following grades:

30 points: Form submitted timely, summary shows that student prepared for the visit and had organized his/her thoughts and materials.

15 points: Form submitted timely, student attended session and had done some preparation, but neglected to bring materials necessary to take full advantage of consultation.

0 points: Form submitted late or not at all, student failed to prepare for session.

Information on the Noel Studio:

The Noel Studio for Academic Creativity is a free, resource for the EKU community, including graduate and undergraduate students.

The Noel Studio's primary service is the individual or group consultation: a trained consultant will spend 30 or 60 minutes with you (an hour is preferable if your project is longer than five pages or the equivalent for presentations and multimedia or if you are working with a group) reviewing your project and discussing your ideas. You can bring your work to the Noel Studio at any point in the communication-development process, even if you don't have anything substantial yet. Your visit will be most helpful if you take the time to:

Prepare questions/ideas/strategies in advance: Identify specific questions/ideas/strategies that will guide your research and thinking about the project while you're in the Noel Studio.

Prepare to participate in the consultation: The Noel Studio is designed as a collaborative and creative space for learning. Thus, you will actively discuss your project with the consultant and take part in invention techniques and activities.

Allot time to revise and reflect after you leave the Noel Studio: Identify the possibilities raised during the consultation that are helpful to you and leave enough time to use the Noel Studio space to reflect on and refine your project and ideas.

Revise and rethink: The Noel Studio is intended to support multiple learning styles. Use invention and practice spaces at the Noel Studio to rethink critical aspects of your project.

The Noel Studio will help with projects in any subject, including traditional essays, research papers, proposals; out-of-class projects such as scholarship applications, graduate school applications, and business letters; multimedia such as digital narratives, videos, podcasts, and online portfolios; and oral presentations, conference talks, and panel presentations. After each consultation, you will receive verification of your visit and a summary of what was discussed.

It is best to make an appointment; however, the Noel Studio welcomes walk-ins.

You may use Noel Studio resources, such as computers, video equipment, monitors, and software without an appointment. Please remember that the Noel Studio does not write, proofread, or grade projects.

For more information or to make an appointment, visit the Noel Studio website at <http://www.studio.eku.edu/> or call 859-622-6229.

Track your progress...

Grading opportunity	Point value	Graded by	Points you received
Exam 1	100 points	Austin & Winslow	
Exam 2	100 points	Austin & Winslow	
Exam 3	100 points	Austin & Winslow	
Research paper	100 points	Austin or Winslow	
Research presentation	100 points	Austin & Winslow	
Research consultation	30 points	Austin & Winslow	
Presentation consultation	30 points	Austin & Winslow	
Total points	560 points		

Writing Quality: Students in all psychology courses are expected to use correct grammar, spelling and composition in written assignments. These elements of writing will be taken into consideration in grading all out-of-class writing assignments. If you would like free help with your writing, you may visit the Noel Studio, in the Library: The Noel Studio for Academic Creativity is a free resource for the EKU community, including graduate and undergraduate students. At the Noel Studio, a trained consultant will work you or your small group on any piece of written or oral communication, at any stage in the process from brainstorming to finished product. Consultants can also help you develop effective research strategies. For more information, visit the Noel Studio website at <http://www.studio.eku.edu/> or call 859-622-6229.

Academic accommodations:

A student with a “disability” may be an individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities such as learning, seeing or hearing. Additionally, pregnancy or a related medical condition that causes a similar substantial limitation may also be considered a disability under the ADA.

If you are registered with the Office of Services for Individuals with Disabilities, please obtain your accommodation letters from the OSID and present them to the course instructor to discuss any academic accommodations you need. If you believe you need accommodation and are not registered with the OSID, please contact the office in the Whitlock Building Room 361 by email at disserv@eku.edu or by telephone at (859) 622-2933. Upon individual request, this syllabus can be made available in an alternative format.

Additional Policies:

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is a fundamental value for the Eastern Kentucky University community of students, faculty, and staff. It should be clearly understood that academic dishonesty is not tolerated and incidents of it will have serious consequences. Anyone who knowingly assists in any form of academic dishonesty shall be considered as responsible as the student who accepts such assistance and shall be subject to the same sanctions. Academic dishonesty can occur in different forms, some of which include cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication.

The instructors reserve the right to examine any source used by the student before giving a grade on a paper and to give an “incomplete” in the course if necessary, to allow time to obtain sources. Students should be prepared to show source material to the instructor for the purpose of verifying information. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

Students are advised that ECU's Academic Integrity Policy will strictly be enforced in this course. The Academic Integrity policy is available at www.academicintegrity.ecu. Questions regarding the policy may be directed to the Office of Academic Integrity. Students have an affirmative obligation to review and comply with the standards articulated on the web site, in addition to the course specific policies outlined in this syllabus.

For the purposes of this course, academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following offenses:

- Claiming as your own work a paper written by another person
- Turning in a paper that contains paraphrases of someone else's ideas but does not give proper credit to that person for those ideas
- Turning in a paper that is largely a restatement in your own words of a paper written by someone else, even if you give credit to that person for those ideas. The thesis and organizing principles of a paper must be your own.
- Turning in a paper that uses the exact words of another author without using quotation marks, even if proper credit is given in a citation, or that changes the words only slightly and claims them to be paraphrases
- Turning in the same paper, even in a different version, for two different courses without the permission of both professors involved
- Using any external source (notes, books, other students, etc) for assistance during an exam, unless given permission to do so by the professor

If a student is found to have committed any of the above offenses, s/he will receive a failing grade on the assignment or in the course, depending upon the seriousness of the offense, in accordance with University policy. The offense will be referred to the Academic Integrity Office for investigation and imposition of sanctions.

Ignorance is no defense.

Student Obligation to Stay Informed

The primary means of communication, outside of classtime, will be via Blackboard and email. Students should check their email and the Blackboard course page at least every other day.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Day	Topics	Readings assigned	Grading opportunities
1 1/14, 16	T	Foundations and definitions		
	R		Rachels	
2 1/21, 23	T		Craig	
	R		Pieper, "Prudence"	
3 1/28, 30	T		Pieper, "Justice"	
	R		Pieper, "Fortitude"	
4 2/4, 6	T		Pieper, "Temperance"	
	R	No class		Exam 1
5 2/11, 13	T	Causes of evil and good	Baron-Cohen, chapters 1-2	
	R		Baron-Cohen, chapter 3	
6 2/18, 20	T		Baumeister	
	R		Zimbardo (ch. 1)	
7 2/25, 27	T		Zimbardo (ch. 10)	
	R		Miller	
8 3/4, 6	T		Gould	
	R		Trivigno	
9	T	SPRING BREAK		
	R	SPRING BREAK		
10 3/18, 20	T	No class		Exam 2
	R	The perception of evil and good	Moral Knowledge	
11 3/25, 27	T	Other perspectives	Cathcart (p. 1-36)	
	R		Cathcart (p. 37-124)	
12 4/1, 3	T		Keown (ch. 1 + 2)	
	R		Marks (2012)	
13 4/8, 10	T		Flexible day/review day	
	R	No class		Exam 3
14 4/15, 17	T	Presentations		Papers due
	R	Presentations		
15 4/22, 24	T	Presentations		
	R	Presentations		
16 4/29, 5/1	T	Presentations		
	R	Presentations		
Finals				