

**\*\*UPDATED January 9, 18\*\***

Department of Philosophy Winter 2017  
The University of Western Ontario

**Instructor:** Professor D.M. Henry, 661-2111 ext. 85876, [dhenry3@uwo.ca](mailto:dhenry3@uwo.ca)

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 11:30-12:30, StH 3140

**Short Course Description.** A close reading of the text of Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* with a focus on. Topics include: the human good, the 'Function Argument', character virtues, friendship, pleasure, practical wisdom, and the nature of happiness.

**Course texts:**

This course will use the Terence Irwin translation of the *Nicomachean Ethics* (Hackett), available at the UWO Bookstore, though other translations may be used as long as they have the appropriate line numbers (e.g. 1098a).

Students are also encouraged to purchase Michael Pakaluk's *Aristotle's Nichomachean Ethics: An Introduction* (available at the Bookstore) and/or David Bostock's *Aristotle's Ethics* (check Amazon.ca for availability). Both are accessible introductions to the main topics in the *Ethics* and will help students worth through the text.

**Course Requirements.** Choose one of the following assignment options. Students must decide before the end of January (notify me by email). Students will not be permitted to change their option after they have submitted their first assignment. **\*\*All assignments are double-spaced, standard font and size.\*\***

**Option #1. Term Paper**

1. Annotated Bibliography **20%** (8 sources accompanied by 100-150 word abstracts, due by Wednesday Feb. 14)
2. Outline **20%** (2 pages, well-developed outline of the major paper, including thesis and argument structure; due by March 1)
3. Major paper (15 pages) **50%** (due by last day of classes)
4. Participation **10%**

**Option #2. Short papers.**

1. Short Paper #1 (10-12 pages) **45%**

2. Short Paper #2 (10-12 pages) **45%** (Due by last day of classes, topic on second half of course)
3. Participation **10%**

Option #3. Short analytical assignments

1. Literature review x 2 (5 pages each). **45%** (first one due by Wednesday Feb. 14; second due by last day of classes)
2. Textual Analysis x 4 (3 pages each). **45%** (due dates: Jan 31, Feb 28, Mar 14, April 4)
3. Participation **10%**

**\*\*Expectations for Option 3.** Good scholarly writing in the History of Philosophy requires a number of different skills. You must be able to summarize the argument in the primary text, defend a coherent thesis supported by well-organized arguments, summarize the current state of the literature, situate your position within some broader debate, and provide a close analysis of difficult arguments or stretches of text. While a term paper would involve all of these skills, Option 3 focuses on two in particular. The aim of the literature review is to summarize the current state of the debate in the literature. The review should begin with a description of the relevant debate and then provide an overview of the major scholarly positions (dividing them into “camps” if possible). Students need not take a side in the debate, but they should demonstrate a grasp of the major positions taken in the literature and be able to summarize the key arguments of specific authors involved. This assignment is designed to help students develop their research skills. The textual analysis assignments (as the name implies) are meant to

**Final Deadline for All Outstanding Assignments**

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