

Nicomachean Ethics
IDH2930 -Section 29570
Class Periods: T/2
Location: Hume 119
Academic Term: Spring 2023

Instructor:

Carlos Casanova

carlosacasanovag@gmail.com (ccasanova1@ufl.edu, from January 5th on)

Office Phone Number: to be determined.

Office Hours: Monday through Friday until 12:00, office location to be determined.

Teaching Assistants:

Please contact through the Canvas website

- Name of TA, email address, office location, office hours
- Name of TA, email address, office location, office hours

Course Description

This course will introduce the students to one of the greatest books ever written on the art of living. The Nicomachean Ethics explores what happiness is and how we can achieve it. In that context, the book discusses what virtue is; whether we have free will; the nature and operations of the main virtues (courage, temperance, justice, prudence, wisdom); the nature, types and operations of friendship; the nature of pleasure and its relationship to happiness; contemplative life and; finally, the nature and aims of law.

The work is divided into 10 books. During this course the students will read one book (equivalent to a chapter) per week and discuss it in class. Books 3, 5, 8 and 9 will take 2 weeks each. The professor will lead the discussion following the Socratic method. The students will be challenged to use this classic work as a way to examine their beliefs and presuppositions concerning the meaning of life and the ways to live a good life. At the beginning of class, a short report of the prior week's discussion is due. In addition, the students will be required to critically discuss one problem suggested by the reading in a 2,000-word final essay. The last week of the semester will be dedicated to help the students finish their essays well.

1 credit.

Course Pre-Requisites / Co-Requisites

None.

Course Objectives

Develop reading comprehension abilities: the students must read the book and discuss it in class.

Develop writing abilities: the students must write reports of the prior week's class discussion. Moreover, they must hand in a draft of their 2,000-word final essay and then polish it into a final copy.

Develop critical thinking and discussion abilities: the students will discuss in class the meaning of the text and the professor will use the Socratic method to provoke thought and active participation by each student in the discussion.

Understand the foundations of classical ethics: reading the book, discussing it and writing the paper will lead to the fulfillment of this objective.

Materials and Supply Fees

None.

Required Textbooks and Software

- Title: *Nicomachean Ethics*.
- Author: Aristotle.
- Publication date and edition 2014, Hackett Publishing Company
- ISBN number: 9781624661174

While this translation is highly recommended, the students may use any other edition, printed or online. Please note that other translations will have to be checked and possibly corrected if need be.

Recommended Materials

- Title
- Author
- Publication date and edition
- ISBN number

Course Schedule

- **January 10:** Nature of ethics, final end, happiness. Explanation concerning the final essay / Lecturer: Carlos Casanova / Book 1 of *Nicomachean Ethics* / Class discussion.
- **January 17:** What is virtue / Lecturer: Carlos Casanova / Book 2 of *Nicomachean Ethics* / Class discussion.
- **January 24:** Voluntariness, choice, deliberation, intention, free will / Lecturer: Carlos Casanova / Book 3, chapters 1-5, of *Nicomachean Ethics* / Class discussion.
- **January 31:** Virtues of fortitude and temperance / Lecturer: Carlos Casanova / Book 3 of *Nicomachean Ethics* / Class discussion.
- **February 7:** Special virtues and shame / Lecturer: Carlos Casanova / Book 4 of *Nicomachean Ethics* / Class discussion.
- **February 14:** Virtue of justice: division, theory of money, political and domestic justice, justice and the republic / Lecturer: Carlos Casanova / Book 5, chapters 1-6 / Class discussion.
- **February 21:** Virtue of justice: natural law, *epiēikeia* / Lecturer: Carlos A. Casanova / Book 5, chapters 7 and 10; book 6, chapter 11 / Class discussion.
- **February 28:** Virtue of justice: voluntary or involuntary, justice against oneself? Intellectual virtues. / Lecturer: Carlos Casanova / Book 5, chapters 8-11; book 6, chapters 1-4 / Class discussion.
- **March 7:** Prudence and wisdom / Lecturer: Carlos Casanova / Book 6, chapters 5-10 and 12 / Class discussion.
- **March 21:** The degrees of rationality in action; nature of pleasure / Lecturer: Carlos Casanova / Book 7 *Nicomachean Ethics* / Class discussion.
- **March 28:** What friendship is, general kinds of friendship / Lecturer: Carlos Casanova / Book 8, chapters 1-7 / Class discussion.
- **April 4:** Friendship and justice, friendship and political regimes, family and friendship, equality and friendship / Lecturer: Carlos Casanova / Book 8, chapters 8-14 / Class discussion.
- **April 11:** Elements of friendship/ Lecturer: Carlos Casanova / Book 9, chapters 1-7 / Quizzes / Exams
- **April 18:** Love of self, friendship and good fortune, friendship and happiness / Lecturer: Carlos Casanova / Book 9, chapters 8-12 / Class discussion. Students must hand the draft of their paper in.
- **April 25:** Pleasure and happiness, the highest happiness, law and virtue/ Lecturer: Carlos Casanova / Book 10 / Class discussion.
- **May 2:** Resolution of doubts. Help to finish the final paper. / Lecturer: Carlos Casanova / Resolution of doubts, indications concerning the final paper. Papers must be handed in by May 5.

Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy

Attendance will be required. The professor will read the list of students at the beginning of each session. Students must attend 80% of the classes, unless there is an acceptable reason. If the student misses two classes without an acceptable reason, the professor will give a warning. No cell phones or laptops may be used during class. (For the

discussion, the student must bring the text of the corresponding *Nicomachean Ethics* book printed on paper. The students must hand in the missed report at the following class, the latest. The student must hand in the draft and/or final paper by email on the set deadline and none other. Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the [Graduate Catalog](#) and require appropriate documentation. Additional information can be found in [Attendance Policies](#).

Evaluation of Grades

Assignment	Total Points	Percentage of Final Grade
Short report of prior week’s discussion (15). Required each week by class time regardless of attendance.	300	30%
Week 14, draft of final paper	200	20%
Final Paper	500	50%
	1000	100%

Grading Policy

The following is given as an example only.

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
90.0 - 100.0	A	4.00
87.0 - 89.9	A-	3.67
84.0 - 86.9	B+	3.33
81.0 – 83.9	B	3.00
78.0 - 80.9	B-	2.67
75.0 - 79.9	C+	2.33
72.0 – 74.9	C	2.00
69.0 - 71.9	C-	1.67
66.0 - 68.9	D+	1.33
63.0 - 65.9	D	1.00
60.0 - 62.9	D-	0.67
0 - 59.9	E	0.00

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

[UF Graduate Catalog](#)
[Grades and Grading Policies](#)

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the [Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students [here](#).

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the Notification to Students of FERPA Rights.

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: counseling.ufl.edu/cwc, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or police.ufl.edu.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.

Library Support, Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints Campus

On-Line Students Complaints