

Le Bien, le Juste, l'Utile. Introduction aux éthiques philosophiques
(The Good, the Just, and the Useful. Introduction to philosophical ethics)

Sarah Stewart-Kroecker
University of Geneva

This course presents the main schools of thought that frame today's ethical reflection and affect everyone in their personal, social and civic life. From Aristotle to Kant, from Bentham to Derrida, we will take you to the heart of contemporary ethical debates through a fascinating philosophical journey. Our increasingly complex world seems to elude our grasp. Whatever your field of academic knowledge, your professional commitments or personal choices, this course presents key concepts for further analysis.

"I really appreciated this course, which was very interesting, well-constructed (notably in terms of the sequence and rhythm), and I found it very well adapted to an introductory level."

-- Alexandre, online student

Here are some key features of the course:

- Introduces key figures in philosophical ethics through a series of videos
- Illustrates these currents through current topical debates
- Offers tools to identify types of ethical arguments
- Access to an open discussion forum

Course summary

Global warming, beginning and end-of-life issues, the dizzying evolution of bio-technologies, the unequal distribution of wealth, heightened migratory pressures ... In response, we are tempted to make the moral life a self-legislating and isolated affair: "do what you want, as long as you do not put at risk the freedom of others". We propose to go against this trend and to defend the idea of an ethics that immerses us in our social and political reality, in and amongst our peers. We thus reformulate the question of what is right and what is good. This is not to say we are starting from scratch and reinventing the wheel. Rather, we will offer a course that allows you to encounter the most important ethical perspectives of our contemporary world: virtue ethics (or perfectionism); ethics of duty (or deontology); utilitarianism (or consequentialism); ethics of love (or ethics of the gift). Everyone will thus have a chance to evaluate his or her ideas, to identify different approaches to the moral life, and to understand a range of perspectives on different situations that face us in our lives. Therefore, we will alternate discussions of the founding schools of ethical thought, in their ancient and contemporary formulations, with cross-disciplinary issues and applied case studies. The goal throughout is to clarify ideas in order to better understand reality and orient human action.

What do you need?

- Curiosity about ethics
- Interest in collaborating and learning with others
- Proficiency in English or French (course is in French with English subtitles)
- Approximately 10 hours of study, peer collaboration and tutor interaction per course week

What will you receive?

- All learning materials
- Support from on-site e-learning facilitators and on-line tutors, and from your professor
- Access to computer lab at the InZone Hub during the course
- A Verified Certificate (this course runs on Coursera)
- All students who pass the final examination will receive 3 European Credit Transfer and Accumulation Credits (ECTS) issued by the University of Geneva

How to apply:

Complete both pages of the course application and submit application attached by email. You can either type directly into the application or print it out and complete the application by hand, writing your answers in pen. If you fill out the application by hand, please make sure to scan a clear copy of the it. Submit application by email to inzone@unige.ch and put “Ethics Kakuma” on the subject line.

Important Dates:

Application Deadline	17 September 2017
Course Orientation	22 September 2017
Course Start Date	25 September 2017
Course End Date	16 December 2017
Final Exam	January / February 2018 (TBC)

Email application to inzone@unige.ch with subject: *Ethics Kakuma*.