



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

# PHL 188 Social Responsibility

Summer 2024

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

This interdisciplinary course on social responsibility delves into the profound relationship between the self and society, the nature of community, the enigma of suffering, and the practical challenges of building a just society. Through the lens of classic philosophical and theological texts, students will explore foundational questions about individual and collective ethical obligations. This course seeks to enhance students' capacity for critical thinking, moral reasoning, and an understanding of diverse cultural and religious perspectives on social responsibility.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate the philosophical and theological underpinnings of social responsibility;
2. Analyze the complex relationship between the individual and society within different intellectual traditions;
3. Evaluate the role of community in fostering social cohesion and addressing shared challenges;
4. Interpret the meaning and response to human suffering within various religious and ethical frameworks;
5. Discuss the practical obstacles to creating an equitable and just society;
6. Develop a comprehensive view of social responsibility that integrates personal values with global ethical concerns.

## PREREQUISITES

None.



## GRADING

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Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
3 Group Projects	30 Points
2 Writing Reports	20 Points
Midterm Exam	25 Points
Final Exam	25 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F.$$

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## COURSE MATERIALS

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### Required Texts:

1. Alasdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue: A Study in Moral Theory*, Third Edition, 2007, University of Notre Dame Press;
2. Christine M. Korsgaard, *Kant: Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, 2012, Cambridge University Press;
3. J Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, 1999, Harvard University Press.

### Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None.

## COURSE TOPICS

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MODULE	TASKS
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Module 1	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 1: Introduction to Social Responsibility  Topic 2: Self and Society: A Philosophical Overview  Topic 3: Community and Its Ethical Significance  Topic 4: The Concept of Personhood: Rights and Responsibilities</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Writing Report #1</p>
Module 2	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 5: Historical Roots of Moral and Social Thought  Topic 6: Virtue Ethics: Character and Social Duties  Topic 7: Deontology and the Categorical Imperative  Topic 8: Utilitarianism: Maximizing Happiness</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Group Project #1</p>
Module 3	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 9: Social Contract Theories: Rousseau and John Locke  Topic 10: Justice as Fairness: Rawlsian Reflections  Topic 11: Entitlement and Distributive Justice: Nozick's Perspective  Topic 12: Feminist Ethics and the Care Tradition</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Group Project #2  Midterm Exam</p>
Module 4	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 13: Catholic Social Teaching: Personalism and Common Good  Topic 14: Protestant Views on Social Responsibility  Topic 15: Islamic Perspectives on Justice and Compassion  Topic 16: Eastern Religions and Social Obligation</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Writing Report #2</p>
Module 5	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 17: Suffering and Its Theological Interpretations  Topic 18: Natural Law and Its Influence on Social Order  Topic 19: Liberalism and Its Critics: From Mill to Sandel  Topic 20: Civil Disobedience and Conscience</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Group Project #3</p>



Module 6	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 21: Poverty, Inequality, and the Call to Action Topic 22: Business Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility Topic 23: Human Rights and Global Justice Topic 24: Environmental Ethics: Our Responsibility to Future Generations</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Final Exam</p>
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## ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

## LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.

2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.

3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.

5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.



## **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.