

# PHILOSOPHICAL ETHICS

UCOR 151-01 TR 10:50am-12:05pm  
Dr. Kelly Arenson  
Fall 2018



The Four Virtues

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course centers on two major concepts in ethics: virtue and vice. We will begin by considering the following questions: What are virtue and vice, and which virtues are most central to our conception of a moral individual? In answering, we will look to ancient, modern, and contemporary thinkers (such as Aristotle, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Susan Wolf).

Next we consider the nature of specific virtues and their corresponding vices, including justice, courage, self-control, and friendship. What place does each of these have in our conception of the ideal ethical person? Have the definitions of virtues changed in light of certain historical and cultural contexts? Again we look to ancient and contemporary sources as well as to fiction (e.g., Sophocles' *Antigone*).

**REQUIREMENTS:** participation, daily reading quizzes, essays, and short-answer quizzes.

**PREREQUISITES:** Basic Philosophical Questions (UCOR 132/IHP 132). In addition, you are far more likely to succeed in this class if you are a careful reader and come to every class ready to discuss texts and ideas.

**NOTE:** Philosophy is an art practiced through dialogue; it does not consist in memorizing and regurgitating facts. As such, this class is highly discussion-based. Students are expected to come to class ready to discuss the readings.