INTRODUCTION to ETHICAL REASONING

HONR 105-02
TR 12:15-1:30pm
Dr. Kelly Arenson
Fall 2021

This course introduces students to the practice of ethical reasoning, exemplifying the “profound concern for moral and spiritual values” at the heart of Duquesne’s mission, and contributing to the personal development of our students. A central feature across all sections of the course is a common framework for ethical reasoning which provides students a shared vocabulary, a common foundation for future ethics education at Duquesne, and a digestible and portable tool to use in their professional, personal, and civic lives.

The questions we’ll address include:

- **Consequences**: Which choices promote the best outcomes for the common good?
- **Responsibility**: What are my duties and obligations?
- **Flourishing**: What does human flourishing involve?
- **Justice**: Which choices respect the moral equality of persons?
- **Freedom**: How do we respect others’ freedom?
- **Context**: What are the morally relevant features of the situation?
- **Expertise**: What do relevant experts, authorities, and exemplars have to say?
- **Commitments**: What beliefs and values guide my choice?
- **Character**: Which choices lead us to become the persons and communities we aspire to be?

- Group presentation
- Daily class participation
- Two analysis papers, written in stages during the semester
- Three exams