



Philosophical Ethics from Aristotle to Artificial Intelligence

Interface is offering a unique opportunity that will be impressive to colleges and exciting for students!

We are thrilled that Harvard University's Dr. Meica Magnani will run a discussion-based philosophy program for a limited number of Interface students!

This program will allow students to not only learn about philosophy with an emphasis on philosophical issues related to STEM – allowing both STEM and non-STEM students to stand out in their college applications – but to also experience the kind of discussion-based sessions of the renowned Harvard tutorial system.

In Harvard tutorials, a small group of undergraduates discuss a topic in depth, led by an advanced Harvard faculty member. Many Harvard students view these tutorials as one of the highlights of their education.

This class is not just for students who want to major in philosophy in college!

Participating in this class will help all students – whether they are interested in the humanities, social sciences, or STEM – strengthen their college applications.

For STEM students, this is a unique opportunity to develop their humanities side, and stand out from other STEM student, increasing their chances of admission to top colleges.

For all students who join this program, their participation will show colleges that they are deep thinkers who seek out opportunities to challenge themselves and who enjoy group discussions. Participants will stand out from students who have the “usual” resume of lots of AP and honors classes, competitions, and research.

This class will also help all students show colleges that the student is an interdisciplinary thinker, which is something all colleges look for!

Learning and discussing complex philosophical concepts will also help students in all fields develop critical thinking skills that will improve their academic performance in college and beyond!

Class schedule:

This class will be held on Friday nights at 8 p.m. (Central Time) /Saturday mornings at 9 am (China Standard Time). This is an 8-week session.

What the program will cover:

The program will first introduce students to the broad philosophical concepts needed to discuss philosophical ethics as applied to specific situations. The first three sessions will cover utilitarianism, deontology (including natural law and Kantian ethics), and virtue ethics/care ethics. In the next four sessions, the students will discuss the ethics of technology (including AI), bioethics, and environmental ethics/animal rights (particularly in the context of scientific research).

Students will have a reading assignment of about 20 minutes for each class. They will also write a short paper, between 1–3 pages, about a topic related to the class. This will not be a research paper. Rather, students will be encouraged to pick a topic that will allow them to write a piece that they can submit to general publications for teen writers and readers, which will increase their chances of being published.

In the final class, led by Interface's own Susan Goodkin, a professional writer who co-runs the Interface Writer's Workshop -- students will discuss topics for their papers. Susan will also edit each paper and suggest places for the students to submit their work.

Instructor: Dr. Meica Magnani is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Harvard University Philosophy Department and co-runs the Embedded EthicCS Teaching Lab, a program that integrates ethical reasoning into Harvard's computer science curriculum. Dr. Magnani received her PhD in philosophy from Stanford and was one of only 11 pre-doctoral Humanities Fellows chosen for MIT's 2016 pre-doctoral program. Dr. Magnani has taught Stanford philosophy classes, as well as teaching philosophy to high school students through the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, a program that provides classes for academically gifted students.

This class will be limited to 8 students to ensure a lot of personal in-class attention. Contact your Interface sales representative to save your spot!