

FYSM 1209
Contemporary Moral, Social, and Religious Issues
Professor Christine Koggel

Fall 2013/Winter 2014: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10:05-11:25

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-3:30 or by appointment

Room 3A46 Paterson Hall, ext. 3239

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REQUIRED TEXTS (CAN BE PURCHASED AT CARLETON UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE)

Contemporary Moral Issues. Fifth Edition. Edited by Wesley Cragg and Christine Koggel. Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 2005.

Moral Issues in Global Perspective. Volume II: Human Diversity and Equality. Second Edition. Edited by Christine Koggel. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 2006.

There will be a few additional readings posted on cuLearn.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to ethics, a branch of philosophy concerned with determining what we ought to do and why. We do this by examining in detail a number of complex theories and controversial moral issues that confront contemporary societies.

The first semester of this course is an introduction to ethics by way of an examination of moral theories and a discussion of the works of key philosophers who established theories such as deontology, utilitarianism, relativism, and care ethics. We then turn to contemporary theories of equality and accounts of difference and diversity among human beings in order to answer questions about the nature of individual choice and social responsibility. How should we live our lives and interact with others? How should we think about ethics in a global context? We critically evaluate these theories in light both of the relativist appeal for tolerance with respect to different moral practices in various cultures and of recent challenges to traditional theory by feminist, non-western, race, class, and disability theorists. We use insights from these various challenges to explore the nature, extent, and kinds of discrimination both within and across cultures.

In the second semester of the course, we discuss the implications of our examination of traditional and contemporary approaches to moral theory for practical issues such as aboriginal rights, poverty, euthanasia, abortion, pornography and censorship, animal rights and the environment, and war and terrorism.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1) Two (2) short assignments (no longer than 3 double spaced pages) on the readings (each worth 10% for a total of 20% of the final grade).

Assignment due dates and the topics are noted in the “Class by Class Readings for Fall Semester” list below (you must do 2 out of the 3). All assignments must be handed in at the **beginning of class**. For each assignment, you can select to hand it in EITHER at the beginning of the class for which the readings are assigned OR at the beginning of the class immediately following that class. I will be a bit more lenient in the grading of the former as you will be working on material we have not yet discussed in class.

These two short assignments serve several purposes: they provide you with early feedback on your work, they allow you to think through and assimilate feedback on your work, and they are aids in the development of skills of argumentation and evaluation that will help you in writing the in-class mid-term exam and the final term paper (described under 3 and 5). For my part, I provide comments that identify places where your interpretation does not fit with the text; you do not back up your interpretation with support from the text; you fail to grasp key points and/or arguments made by the author; you are too brief in your summary and/or analysis; you summarize too much of the detail of the readings rather than focus on the assignment question; or you show a carelessness in grammatical presentation that gets in the way of understanding your answer(s) to the assignment question(s).

2) EITHER

a) A class presentation worth 15% of the final grade (with the following guidelines).

You will need to **check with me no later than the day before you do the presentation** to tell me what you plan to cover in the reading for that class (you can do this by email or phone or office hours). You are not expected (nor is it desired) to cover the whole article or set of articles. Picking a section or topic or issue within a reading and letting me know what you select to work on will be important. You will present a prepared paper (or talk using an outline) to the class by first explaining clearly what the topic or selected text is about and then discussing it. You will then answer questions on it and generate class discussion by preparing questions for discussion (approximately 20 minutes **total**).

You then need to write up your presentation in light of the class discussion of it and hand it in at the beginning of the Tuesday class **following** the presentation (no longer than 5 double-spaced pages). An important part of the exercise of rewriting will be the revisions you make in light of the class discussion of your presentation and further reflections you have had on the reading.

OR

b) **Rewrite ONE** of the assignments in 1) above into an expanded paper (no longer than 5 double spaced pages and worth 15% of the final grade) according to the following instructions.

When you get the graded assignments in 1) back, you can select to rewrite one of them and hand it back in at the beginning of the following Tuesday class. The rewrite should **take my comments on the graded assignment into account and also expand the analysis** by having you **reread** the original readings and **review** notes, **add a discussion exploring answers to a second question (identified under “Rewrite Questions”)**, and **reflect** on and incorporate some of the discussion/lecture of this material in class. In some cases you may need to focus your discussion on a narrower topic than the original assignment, or do more exegetical work on the text itself before launching into criticisms/comments on it, or sometimes even broaden the

original topic covered in your assignment to include some more text or another related issue. As with the write up of the class presentation, your revisions should take into account class discussion and readings that may have helped to clarify problems/misinterpretations so that you can expand the analysis beyond what you did in the original assignment.

The rewritten paper **along with the original graded assignment** needs to be handed in at the beginning of the Tuesday class following that in which I handed back the graded assignment.

3) Mid-term in-class exam (1.5 hours) worth 25% of the final grade. The exam will be on the readings on moral theories covered in Weeks 1-4 and on the class lectures and discussion of this material.

4) Class attendance and participation (worth 15% of the final grade).

5) Final term paper worth 25% of the final grade (about 8-9 double spaced pages). The term paper covers the practical issues material from Weeks 5-11 (material after the Mid-term Exam). Topics will be handed out in advance. The due date is noted on the “Class by Class Readings” list below.

CLASS BY CLASS READINGS FOR FALL SEMESTER

Week 1 - Moral Theory

September 5 - Introduction to the course.

Week 2 – Moral Theory

September 10 – Readings from *Contemporary Moral Issues (CMI)*: from Chapter 11, “Introduction (587-590) and David Wong “Relativism” (603-610).

September 12 - Readings from *CMI*: from Chapter 11, Kant “Categorical Imperative (590-596).

Week 3 – Moral Theory

September 17 - Readings from *CMI*: from Chapter 11, Mill “Utilitarianism” (596-603)

September 19 - Readings from *CMI*: from Chapter 11, Kant and Mill (590-603) (review and evaluation)

Week 4 – Moral Theory

September 24 - Readings from *CMI*: from Chapter 11, Baier “The Need for More than Justice” (610-619)

September 26 - Readings from *Ethics and Social Welfare. Special Issue: Care Ethics*, v. 4, no. 2, 2010: Joan Tronto “Creating Caring Institutions” (158-171) (posted on cuLearn).

Week 5 - Equality and Difference: Theories and Critical Analysis

October 1 - **In-class midterm exam on readings from Weeks 1-4.**

October 3 - Readings from *Moral Issues in Global Perspective: Volume II (MGPII)*: Preface (xi-xiv); Introduction to Chapter 1 (1-3) and Nussbaum (4-25).

Week 6 - Equality and Difference: Theories and Critical Analysis

October 8 - Readings from *MGPII*: Crocker (26-42).

ASSIGNMENT #1

Assignment Topic: Question 5 from “Study Questions” in *MGPII* on page 85.

(Rewrite Topic: Question 5 from “Study Questions” in *MGPII* on page 85 with further discussion and analysis of Crocker on insiders and outsiders.)

October 10 – Readings from *CMI* Nussbaum and Crocker (4-42) (review and evaluate)

Week 7 - Equality and Difference: Theories and Critical Analysis

October 15 – Readings from *MGPII*: Steele (55-59) and Young (60-71).

October 17 - Readings from *MGPII*: Thomas (72-84).

Week 8 - Discrimination – Gender

October 22 - Readings from *CMI*: Chapter 5, McIntosh “White Privilege and Male Privilege” (258-266)

October 24 - Readings from *CMI*: Chapter 5, Frye “Sexism” (267-280) and from *MGPII*: Chapter 3, Saltzberg and Chrisler (142-150).

ASSIGNMENT #2

Assignment Topic: Question 2 from “Study Questions” in *MGPII* on page 213.

(Rewrite Topic: Question 2 from “Study Questions” in *MGPII* on page 213 and expand to include a comparison/discussion of Frye’s “Sexism” in *CMI* on consequences.)

FALL BREAK

Week 9 – Discrimination – Gender

November 5 – Readings from *MGPII*: Chapter 3, Burgess-Jackson (151-164).

Discrimination – Race and Ethnicity

November 7 - Readings from *MGPII*: Introduction to Chapter 2 (89-90) and Appiah (91-101)

Week 10 – Discrimination - Race and Ethnicity

November 12 – Readings from *CMI*, Chapter 5, “Race and Crime” (255-258) and from *MGPII*: Chapter 2, Yamada (132-136).

November 14 - Readings from *MGPII*: Chapter 2, Marilyn Frye (116-128) and Davion (129-131).

Week 11 – Discrimination – Sexual Orientation

November 19 – Readings from *MGPII*: Introduction to Chapter 4 (217-219); Jordan (220-228) and Overall (229-239).

ASSIGNMENT #3

Assignment Topic: Question 1 from “Study Questions” in *MGPII* on page 274.
(Rewrite Topic: Questions 1 and 4 from “Study Questions” in *MGPII* on page 274.)

November 21 - Readings from *CMI*, Chapter 5, Wellington “Why Liberals Should Support Same-Sex Marriage” (280-297)

Week 12 – Discrimination – Sexual Orientation

November 26 – Readings from *MGPII*: Chapter 4, Calhoun (240-251).

- Discrimination – Disability

November 28 - Readings from *MGPII*: Introduction to Chapter 5 (277-279); Wasserman (280-285); and Silvers (286-294).

Week 13 - Discrimination -- Disability

December 3 – Readings from *CMI*: Chapter 5, Bickenbach “Disability and Equality” (297-303).

December 5 - Readings from *MGPII*: Chapter 5, Tremain (307-320).

FINAL TERM PAPER DUE ON DECEMBER 9 BY 4:15 P.M. (FLOOR 3A AS PER INSTRUCTIONS UNDER DEPARTMENT POLICIES). DEADLINE IS SPECIFIED IN THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR AS “LAST DAY FOR HANDING IN TERM WORK AND THE LAST DAY THAT CAN BE SPECIFIED BY A COURSE INSTRUCTOR AS A DUE DATE FOR TERM WORK FOR FALL TERM COURSES.”

Brief Outline of Likely Topics and Readings: Winter Semester

- 1) Aboriginal Rights (*CMI* and supplementary)
- 2) Poverty (*CMI* and *MGPII*)
- 3) Euthanasia (*CMI*)
- 4) Abortion (*CMI*)
- 5) Pornography and Censorship (*CMI*)
- 6) Animal Rights and Environmental Ethics (*CMI*)
- 7) War and Terrorism (*CMI* and supplementary)

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2013-14)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following in the lower right corner of the cover sheet:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://www4.carleton.ca/calendars//ugrad/current/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html#14.3>)

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no

later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Important Dates:

Sept. 5	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 18	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 11	University Day – no undergraduate classes.
Oct. 14	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Oct. 28 – Nov. 1	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 25	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 9	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 9	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 11-22	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Dec. 22	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 6	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 17	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 17-21	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 25	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 8	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.
Apr. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 9-10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Apr. 11-26	Final Examinations. Exams will not be held Apr. 18-20.
Apr. 18	Good Friday – university closed.
Apr. 26	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735