

PHIL1550 Introduction to Ethics and Social Issues  
Winter 2016  
Syllabus

**Instructor Information**

**Course instructor:** Deirdre Kelly

**Office location:** 5210A VSIM

**E-mail:** Please contact me through the CULearn course site

**Office hours:** By appointment

**Teaching Assistant Information**

Daniel Casey

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Marcel Sangsari

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**Course Information**

Winter 2016, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:05-5:25PM

**Location:** Azrieli Theater 101

**Course title:** PHIL1550

**Department:** Philosophy

**Course number:** PHIL1550

**Course website address, newsgroup, if applicable:**

CULearn will be used for access to the course syllabus, lecture slides, marks, and other course material. It is important to regularly check in to CULearn for course updates and other information.

**Course Description**

This course examines current and historic approaches to ethics. Throughout the term we will explore four areas of ethical study– descriptive ethics, normative ethics, metaethics and applied ethics – and investigate how they apply to contemporary social issues. There will be overlap between these approaches; however, each will also have its own associated methodologies and issues. We will examine ethical issues primarily through the lens of philosophy, but also where relevant through those of psychology, neuroscience, and other related disciplines. There will be a strong emphasis placed on social issues such as animal welfare, euthanasia, abortion, pornography, and others.

**Course Text**

The required textbook used for this course is **The Fundamentals of Ethics** (2015) by Russ Shafer Landau. This will be used starting in February and is available through the Carleton bookstore.

Other required readings are listed in the course calendar and may be added to at the instructor's discretion.

**Evaluation**

This course is comprised of 3 components of evaluation – 2 exams and a term paper (as described below).

## Missed Exams

Students are expected to complete exams on the day indicated in the course calendar. In the case of a medical excuse, missed exams must be accompanied by a doctor's note. There will be **no makeup exam for missed exams**. In the case of a missed exam, the remaining exam will be worth 40% and the paper worth 60%.

## EXAM 1

**Value:** 30%

**Exam date:** Thursday, February 11, 2016

**Format:** Essay-type questions

## EXAM 2

**Value:** 30%

**Exam date:** Thursday, March 17, 2016

**Format:** Essay-type questions

## TERM PAPER

**Value:** 40%

**Due Date:** Friday, April 8, 2016

**Format:** 6-8 pages in length or up to 2000 words

**Where to submit:** To CULearn

More information regarding topics and format will become available later in the term.

## Class Schedule

(Academic articles, videos, and other resources may be added or changed at instructor's discretion throughout the semester)

Date	Topic	Reading
2016-01-07	Syllabus overview Introduction to course	No reading
2016-01-12	Beyond Good and Evil	J. Prinz <a href="http://subcortex.com/MoralityInnatePrinz.pdf">http://subcortex.com/MoralityInnatePrinz.pdf</a>
2016-01-14	Beyond Good and Evil	Zimbardo speaks [electronic resource] : lucifer effect and psychology of evil / Uniview Worldwide Available through the library
2016-01-19	"The Mad, the Bad, and the Psychopath"	H. Maibom <a href="http://uc.academia.edu/HeidiMaibom">http://uc.academia.edu/HeidiMaibom</a>
2016-01-21	"Autism, Empathy, and Moral Agency"	J. Kennett The Philosophical Quarterly Volume 52, Issue 208, pages 340–357, July 2002  Available through the library

2016-01-26	Reasons and Morality: Kant, Kohlberg, Turiel	<a href="http://www.simplypsychology.org/kohlberg.html">http://www.simplypsychology.org/kohlberg.html</a>
2016-01-28	Emotions and Morality: Hume, Haidt	<a href="http://www3.nd.edu/~wcarbona/Haidt%202001.pdf">http://www3.nd.edu/~wcarbona/Haidt%202001.pdf</a>
2016-02-02	Moral foundations theory	<a href="http://www.moralfoundations.org/">http://www.moralfoundations.org/</a>
2016-02-04	Dual-process moral theory	<a href="https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54763f79e4b0c4e55ffb000c/t/54e90604e4b09706d4a4fc65/1424557572437/beyond-point-and-shoot-morality.pdf">https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54763f79e4b0c4e55ffb000c/t/54e90604e4b09706d4a4fc65/1424557572437/beyond-point-and-shoot-morality.pdf</a>
2016-02-09	Review class	No reading
2016-02-11	<b>EXAM 1</b>	
2016-02-16	<b>Reading week: No class</b>	
2016-02-18	<b>Reading week: No class</b>	
2016-02-23	Who do we owe? And what do we owe them?	No reading
2016-02-25	Morality and Religion	Chapter 5
2016-03-01	Psychological and Ethical Egoism	Chapters 7-8
2016-03-03	Consequentialism and Utilitarianism	Chapters 9-10
2016-03-08	The case for animal welfare	P. Singer <a href="http://www.utilitarian.net/singer/by/1979----.htm">http://www.utilitarian.net/singer/by/1979----.htm</a>
2016-03-10	Kantianism	Chapters 11-12
2016-03-15	Virtue Ethics	Chapter 17
2016-03-17	<b>EXAM 2</b>	
2016-03-22	Feminism and Care Ethics How should we care for ourselves and others?	Chapter 18
2016-03-24	Moral Nihilism	Chapter 20
2016-03-29	Do we have obligations to future generations?	E. Page <a href="http://www.academia.edu/2280900/Justice_Between_Generations_Investigating_A_Sufficientarian_Approach">http://www.academia.edu/2280900/Justice_Between_Generations_Investigating_A_Sufficientarian_Approach</a>
2016-03-31	The ethics of Artificial Intelligence	No readings
2016-04-05	The ethics of being born and dying: Abortion and Euthanasia	No readings
2016-04-07	Final thoughts and questions for papers	No readings
2016-04-08	<b>Term Paper Due on CULearn</b>	

## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2015-16)

### **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:
  - student name
  - student number
  - course number and section
  - instructor's name
- 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://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulations/oftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

### **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 your professor 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 your professor 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](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send 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 your professor 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. 2	Classes start.
Sept. 4	Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Sept. 7	Labour Day - University closed.
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. 12	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 26-30	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 7	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. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 8	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 9-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 21	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 6	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 19	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. 15-19	Winter Break, no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Mar. 25	Good Friday – University closed.
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. 11-23	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 23	Take-home exams are due.

### **Addresses:**

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