

INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS AND SOCIAL ISSUES

PHIL 1550A – Fall 2016

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday: 11:30am – 1:00pm
Venue: Southam Hall THB
Instructor: Dr. Lucas Jurkovic
Office: 329B Paterson Hall (Department of Philosophy)
Email: lucas.jurkovic@carleton.ca
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:30 – 3:00
Course Website: Through registration, you will get access to the cuLearn site for this course. This system will be used for access to announcements and grades.

Course Description

First, this course will introduce you to some of the main ethical theories philosophers have developed. Then we will study a number of social issues involving ethical reasoning.

Course Materials

All the readings will be freely available on Ares, the digital reserve system. You can access it through this link: <https://libares01.carleton.ca> (there will also be a link on cuLearn that directs you to Ares). Many of the readings are freely available on the internet.

Course Requirements

You are required to attend class. Discussion is an important part of the coursework and you will need to be there to participate. You are also expected to do all of the assigned readings. There will be two in-class midterm tests (the first will be worth 25%; the second will be worth 35%), and a final exam (worth 40%). Both of the midterms and the final exam will consist of short and long answer questions.

Class Schedule

Sep 08, Thu Introduction to Ethical Theories 1: Deontology and Consequentialism

Sep 13, Tue Introduction to Ethical Theories 2: Virtue Ethics and Situationism

Crime and Punishment in the Age of Neuroscience:

Sep 15, Thu Joshua Greene and Jonathan Cohen, “For the law, neuroscience changes nothing and everything”

Sep 20, Tue Daniel Dennett, “My Brain Made Me Do It (when neuroscientists think they can do philosophy)”

Post-Humanism:

Sep 22, Thu Nicole A. Vincent, “Enhancing Responsibility”

Sep 27, Tue Nick Bostrom, “Why I Want to be a Post-Human when I Grow Up”

Artificial Intelligence:

Sep 29, Thu Nick Bostrom & Eliezer Yudkowsky, "The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence"

Oct 04, Tue 1st Midterm Exam (worth 25%)

Abortion:

Oct 06, Thu Judith Jarvis Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion"

Oct 11, Tue Baruch Brody, "Thomson on Abortion"

Euthanasia:

Oct 13, Thu James Rachels, "Active and Passive Euthanasia"

Oct 18, Tue Winston Nesbitt, "Is Killing No Worse Than Letting Die?"

Animal Rights:

Oct 20, Thu Tom Regan, "The Case for Animal Rights"

Oct 24-28 Fall break, No classes

Sweatshops:

Nov 01, Tue Denis G. Arnold and Norman E. Bowie, "Sweatshops and Respect for Persons"

Nov 03, Thu Matt Zwolinski, "Sweatshops, Choice, and Exploitation"

Nov 08, Tue 2nd Midterm Exam (worth 35%)

Inequality and Charitable Giving:

Nov 10, Thu Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality"

Nov 15, Tue John Arthur, "World Hunger and Moral Obligation: The Case Against Singer"

War:

Nov 17, Thu Robert K. Fullinwider, "War and Innocence"

Nov 22, Tue Lawrence A. Alexander, "Self-Defense and the Killing of Noncombatants: A Reply to Fullinwider"

Climate Change:

Nov 24, Thu Shelley Kagan, “Do I Make a Difference?”

Nov 29, Tue Stephen M. Gardiner, “A Perfect Moral Storm: Climate Change, Intergenerational Ethics and the Problem of Moral Corruption”

The Role of Empathy in Moral Thinking:

Dec 01, Thu Paul Bloom, “Against Empathy”

Dec 06, Tue Replies to Bloom (Various Authors), and a response from Bloom

Dec 08, Thu *Review for Final Exam*

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2016-17)

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/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/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 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. 7	Classes start.
Sept. 20	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. 10	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 24-28	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. Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Dec. 9	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. 10-22	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 22	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 18	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. 20	Family Day – University closed.
Feb. 20-24	Winter Break, no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 7	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. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 10-25	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 14	Good Friday – University closed.
Apr. 25	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