

PHIL1550B Intro to Ethics and Social Issues
Winter 2015
Syllabus

Instructor Information

Course instructor: Nalini E. Ramlakhan

Office location: Paterson Hall 329B

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Office hours: Wednesdays and Fridays 10:30AM-1:00PM
or by appointment

Course Information

Winter 2015, Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:35AM-9:55AM

Course title: Intro to Ethics and Social Issues

Course number: 1550B

Room: Southam Hall (THB)

Department: Philosophy

Teaching assistants: TBA

Course Website:

CULearn will be used for access to the course syllabus, grades, announcements, and discussion boards. It is recommended that students regularly check CULearn for course updates and other information. Lecture slides will not be posted on CULearn. Please note that neither the instructor nor the TAs will provide slides and/or lecture notes, regardless of the reason a student has missed a class. It is the student's responsibility to catch up with any missed lecture material. Students should see the TAs or instructor if they need to catch up with missed material.

Course Description

This course examines multiple areas of ethics and social issues in philosophy. The first unit looks at general issues in ethics and philosophy (e.g., moral relativism, the good life). The second unit focuses on moral, ethical, and social issues that stem from personal identity (e.g., how should individuals be treated given our conception of personal identity?). The third unit explore emotions in ethics and morality (e.g., the role of emotions is morality). The fourth, and final, unit looks at the treatment of psychopaths in society (e.g., whether psychopaths should be held morally and/or legally responsible for their actions).

Dos and Don'ts

Do complete the readings, come to class, and complete your assignments on time. Class attendance is important if you want to succeed in this course. If you are having difficulties, including difficulties completing an assignment on time, talk to me during my office hours. Do not use your cell phone during class. Do not be disruptive during class.

Course Texts

Made available at Haven Bookstore

Maibom, Heidi (ed.). *Empathy and Morality*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Makatesti, Luca & McMillian, John (eds). *Responsibility and Psychopathy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Shafer-Landau, Russ. *The Fundamentals of Ethics* (3rd edition). New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.

Shoemaker, David. *Personal Identity and Ethics: A Brief Introduction*. Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2009.

Disclaimer: I reserve the right to change the readings or topics assigned. Changes will not add substantial workload.

Evaluation

Grades will be based on two quizzes, one test, one response paper, and a take-home exam.

QUIZ 1

Value: 15%

Date: January 28th, 2015

Description: This quiz will test students on the material from lectures and readings, and will be in multiple choice and true/false format.

TEST 1

Worth: 20%

Date: March 11th, 2015

Description: Students will be tested on everything from units 1 and 2, but the test will focus primarily on unit 2. The test will be in multiple choice and short answer format.

QUIZ 2

Value: 15%

Date: March 27th, 2015

Description: This quiz will test students on the material from lectures and readings, and will be in multiple choice and true/false format. Students will only be tested on the material from unit 3.

RESPONSE PAPER

Value: 15%

Due date: March 27th, 2015

Length: 2-3 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12pt font

Submission policy: Submit your paper in class ON or BEFORE the due date. Points may be deducted for grammar and spelling errors. Papers are due on March 27th, but students will have until April 8th to submit their paper without penalty. Papers not submitted by April 8th will not be accepted. Extensions will not be granted for this assignment. Hard copies only. Emailed submissions will not be accepted.

TAKE HOME EXAM

Value: 35%

Due date: April 23rd, 2015

Exams should be handed in directly to the instructors or TAs before April 23rd or on April 23rd between 9:00AM-4:00PM in Paterson Hall 329B. Exams can also be dropped off in the philosophy drop box (located on floor 3A Paterson Hall) on April 23rd before 3:30PM. Electronic submissions will NOT be accepted—NO EXCEPTIONS. Exams handed in after April 23rd are subject to a loss of 5 points from the exam grade per day late. Late exams should be dropped off in the philosophy drop box. The last day to hand in an exam will be on April 30th. Exams submitted after April 30th will receive a 0.

Any deferrals must be submitted to the registrar's office (see policies below).

NOTES

1. The standard time for returning graded tests, assignments, etc. is two weeks from the date of the test or assignment due date. Your TAs will do their best to complete all grading within the two week time frame. If additional time is needed for grading, announcements will be made in class or posted on the CULearn website.
2. The TAs are responsible for grading all of the tests and assignments. If a disagreement over a grade occurs, the student needs to see the TA that graded the test or assignment. The instructor will not discuss the grade with the student unless the student has seen the TA first. If the disagreement persists, the student can appeal the mark to the instructor.
3. A make-up test/quiz will be provided only upon presentation of verifiable documentation (e.g., a doctor's note). A failure to provide one will result in a zero. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor if a test is missed. Students must contact the instructor within 72 hours of a missed test to schedule a make up test. This is the student's responsibility. Arrangements must be made directly with the instructor. If you are excused from a test/quiz, you must make up the test at the following times: For Quiz 1, the make up date is February 2nd, 5:30pm–7:00pm; Test 1: March 16th, 5:30pm–7:00pm; Quiz 2: March 30th, 5:30pm–7:00pm. The location is 329B Paterson Hall. There are no exceptions.

Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading
Jan 7 th , 2015	Syllabus overview Introduction to philosophy and ethics	Shafer-Landau, Introduction
Jan 9 th , 2015	The Good Life	Shafer-Landau, Chapters 1-4
Jan 14 th , 2015	Normative Ethics: Doing the Right Thing	Shafer-Landau, Chapters 5-8
Jan 16 th , 2015	Normative Ethics: Doing the Right Thing	Shafer-Landau, Chapters 9-12
Jan 21 st , 2015	Normative Ethics: Doing the Right Thing	Shafer-Landau, Chapters 13-18
Jan 23 rd , 2015	Metaethics: The status of Morality; Taking stock—review	Shafer-Landau, Chapters 19-21
Jan 28 th , 2015	Quiz 1	No Readings
	UNIT 2-ETHICS, MORALITY, AND PERSONAL IDENTITY	
Jan 30 th , 2015	Introduction to Personal Identity	Movie-- <i>The Sixth Day</i>
Feb 4 th , 2015	Introduction to Personal Identity	Movie-- <i>The Sixth Day</i> Shoemaker, Introduction

Feb 6 th , 2015	Personal Identity and the Memory Criterion	Shoemaker, Chapter I Locke, Of Identity and Diversity (accessed on Google Scholar)
Feb 11 th , 2015	No class	No Readings
Feb 13 th , 2015	Hume on Personal Identity; The Psychological Criterion and the Biological Criterion	Shoemaker, Chapter 2; Hume, Selection from Book I, Part 4, Section 6 of <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i> http://www.anselm.edu/homepage/dbanach/pi.htm .
Feb 18 th , 2015 and Feb 20 th , 2015	Winter Reading Week	Classes Suspended
Feb. 25 th , 2015	Alternative Approaches to Personal Identity; Taking stock—review	Shoemaker, Chapter 3; Parfit, Chapter 10 of <i>Reasons and Persons</i> (ebook, accessed through library portal)
Feb. 27 th , 2015	Personal Identity and Ethics	Shoemaker, Chapters 4 and 5
March 4 th , 2015	Personal Identity and Morality	Shoemaker, Chapters 6 and 7
March 6 th , 2014	Personal Identity and Ethical Theory; Taking stock—review	Shoemaker, Chapter 8
March 11 th , 2015	Test 1	No Readings
	UNIT 3—EMOTIONS AND MORALITY	
March 13 th , 2015	Introduction; empathy and morality; response paper topics handed out; discussion on how to write a response paper	Maibom (ed), Chapters 1, 4, and 6
March 18 th , 2015	Morality and the emotions	Maibom (ed), Chapters 5 and 7
March 20 th , 2015	Morality and the emotions	Maibom (ed), Chapters 8 and 11
	UNIT 4—MORAL RESPONSIBILITY AND PSYCHOPATHY	
March 25 th , 2015	Psychopathy: a new research paradigm	Video: On the Trail of Evil: A Journey to the Center of the Brain Malatesti and McMillan, Chapter 1
March 27 th , 2015	Quiz 2 *Response papers due*	No Readings

April 1 st , 2014	The responsibility of the psychopathic offender	Malatesti and McMillan, TBD
April 3 rd , 2015	The responsibility of the psychopathic offender	Malatesti and McMillan, TBD
April 8 th , 2015	*Take home exams handed out* *Final day to hand in response papers*	Malatesti and McMillan, TBD

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2014-15)

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
- 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://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. 4	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 17	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. 13	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Oct. 27-31	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 8	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. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 9	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 10-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Dec. 21	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 16	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. 16-20	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 24	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. 11-23	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 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