

Preliminary Course Outline

CONTEMPORARY MORAL, SOCIAL, AND RELIGIOUS ISSUES

PHIL 1500 P – CARLETON UNIVERSITY – 2012-13

TERM:	Fall/Winter
LECTURES:	Thursdays 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.
TUTORIALS:	Thursdays 4.30 to 5.30 or 5.30 to 6.30
INSTRUCTOR:	Jay Drydyk
OFFICE:	Paterson TBA
OFFICE HOURS:	TBA
PHONE:	Please email instead, or see me in person during office hours.
EMAIL:	Class email on cuLearn. I check messages Sunday p.m. and at office hours
CULEARN SITE:	TBA

Times of crisis can bring out the best and the worst in people, raising questions about what we each owe to other human beings. In this course we examine what our responsibilities are in response to four extreme situations: (1) disaster and famine, (2) slavery and other unfree labour, (3) impoverishment and repression, and (4) war. Similar themes are taken up in the companion course English 1000; these two courses make up the Arts One cluster, *What Would You Do?* For more information on taking these courses through ArtsOne, go to <http://www1.carleton.ca/artstone/current-clusters/what-would-you-do/>.

In PHIL 1500, we will examine some ethical debates on these questions. To navigate them, we need to recognize which attempts to convince us are weaker, and which are stronger. We also need to discover which values and principles we can rely upon, and what their limitations are.

The course does not favour any particular answers to the issues which are studied. Yet it demands that students avoid mistakes and defend themselves plausibly in working out their views. It does turn out that some views are just more difficult to defend than others – for instance pro-slavery views – but it remains important to understand *why* they are indefensible.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. *Readings for PHIL 1500*, ed. Jay Drydyk (course pack)
2. Possible second course pack TBA
3. *The Pocket Guide to Critical Thinking*, Richard L. Epstein and Carolyn Kernberger

ASSIGNMENTS - *tentative*

When	What	Worth
Right away	Register on cuLearn	priceless
10 in Fall, 10 in Winter	Preparation: Reading responses (max 250 words) & lecture responses	20
Each week, all year	Tutorial participation (Participation marks for ArtsOne students will be reduced by failure to attend advising meetings.)	20
October	In-class test on argument analysis	12
October	Essay preparation (2 assignments @ 250 words maximum)	8
November	Essay 1	20
February or March	Essay 2 or Essay 3. You must submit one but may submit both, in which case the higher grade will be recorded.	20