# PHIL 1550 A Introduction to Ethics and Social Issues

**Summer 2024**

**Class schedule:** Online asynchronous.

**Instructor:** Dr. Marie-Pier Lemay

Department of Philosophy Paterson Hall

Office: 3A45 Paterson Hall

Office Hours: TBD (online)

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**Teaching Assistant information:**

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## Course description

### Calendar Course Description

An introduction to understanding, assessing, and formulating ethical arguments concerning controversial issues. Particular issues studied may include, world hunger, capital punishment, terrorism, euthanasia, abortion, pornography and hate speech, animal rights, the environment, and topics in theories of race, gender and disability.

### Course Description

This course examines contemporary debates in ethics and social philosophy. It is divided in two main parts: a) introduction to ethics and moral theory, and b) ethical issues and debates. In the first section of your course, you will be introduced to the main terms, concepts, and theories we use in ethics. For instance, you will learn how to make an argument in ethics and how to distinguish between consequentialist and deontological arguments. While the first portion of this course is mostly theoretical, having this broad introduction to ethics will help you to understand the issues at play in the case studies we will analyze together in the second portion.

*e-Proctoring: Please note that tests and examinations in this course will use a remote proctoring service provided by Scheduling and Examination Services. You can find more information at*[*https://carleton.ca/ses/e-proctoring/*](https://carleton.ca/ses/e-proctoring/)*.*

*The minimum computing requirements for this service are as follows:  
Hardware: Desktop, or Laptop  
OS: Windows 10, Mac OS 10.14  
Internet Browser: Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, or Microsoft Edge  
Internet Connection (High-Speed Internet Connection Recommended)  
Webcam (HD resolution recommended)  
Note: Tablets, Chromebooks and Smartphones are not supported at this time. Windows-based tablets are not supported at this time.*

## Learning Outcomes

At the end of this class, you will:

1. describe key concepts and theories in ethics,
2. analyze contemporary ethical debates with underlying arguments
3. create a strong rationale to argue for or against ethical issues
4. apply issues emerging from ethical debates and arguments to real-life scenarios
5. use ethical tools, arguments, and classical theories to make informed decisions

## Texts

Required Textbook: *Applied Ethics Primer*, Letitia Meynell & Clarisse Paron (2023) ISBN: 9781554816149 / 1554816149

This book is legally available for free via Pressbooks: [Applied Ethics Primer](https://caul-cbua.pressbooks.pub/aep/). (<https://caul-cbua.pressbooks.pub/aep/>)

If you prefer to have a printed copy (published by Broadview Press), copies of this book will be available at the campus bookstore.

The rest of the required readings will be electronically available on the course website.

## Course calendar

| **Week** | **Topic** | **Date** | **Lesson experience** | **Assignments due** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Introduction to Ethics   * What is ethics? * What is an ethical dilemma? * Why do we need ethics? * How to make an argument | May 6-10 | **Reading**:  Maynell and Paron, [Applied Ethics Primer](https://caul-cbua.pressbooks.pub/aep/), Introduction. pp. 11-30 https://caul-cbua.pressbooks.pub/aep/ (AEP) *Appendix A: Tips for Reading Actively* (AEP) & *B: Critical Thinking Worksheet.*  **Watching**:  Lessons from the first week | Quiz 1: (5%) |
| 2 | Consequentialism and Deontology   * Consequentialism: Ethics based on action * Deontology: Ethics based on reasons | May 13-17 | **Reading**:  Maynell and Paron, [Applied Ethics Primer](https://caul-cbua.pressbooks.pub/aep/), pp. 33-54 (if paperback book). pp. 15-29 (if PDF).  **Exam practicing**: Exam practice on CoMaS, open for the week on Brightspace.  **Watching**:  Lessons from the second week and *How to write an essay in philosophy* | Quiz 2: (5%)  Self-reflective essay due (1%) |
| 3 | Virtue, Relations, Rights, and Ethics   * Virtues-based Ethics * Relations-based Ethics * Rights-based Ethics | May 20-24 | **Reading**:  Maynell and Paron, [Applied Ethics Primer](https://caul-cbua.pressbooks.pub/aep/), pp. 55-73 & 85-99 (if paperback book) pp. 30-44 & 49-59 (if PDF).  **Watching**:  Lessons from the third week | Quiz 3 (5%) & First exam (15%) |
| 4 | Contemporary Ethics – Part 1   * Structural Injustice * Exploitation * Global Poverty * Philanthropy | May 27-31 | **Reading**:  Young, I. M. (2003). *From Guilt to Solidarity*.  Young, I. M. (2011). *Responsibility for Justice*, pp. 43–52.  Singer, P. (1972). Famine, Affluence, and Morality. *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 1(3), 229–243.  [MrBeast and philanthropy](https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/12/magazine/mrbeast-youtube.html) (<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/12/magazine/mrbeast-youtube.html>)  **Watching**:  Lessons from the fourth week & these two videos on Shein:  [Influencers on blast: how a Shein factory trip backfired | About That](file:///Influencers%20on%20blast/%20how%20a%20Shein%20factory%20trip%20backfired%20|%20About%20That) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTmuHwK165k&ab_channel=CBCNews> )  [How Shein Built a $66B Fast-Fashion Empire](file:///C:/Users/alabaagbatogun/Downloads/How%20Shein%20Built%20a%20$66B%20Fast-Fashion%20Empire%20|%20WSJ%20The%20Economics%20Of) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWotBPtsulo&ab_channel=TheWallStreetJournal> ) | Quiz 4 (5%) & |
| 5 | Contemporary Ethics – Part 2   * Bioethics * Disability * Medical Assistance in Dying | June 3-7 | **Reading**:  Reynolds, J. (2022). Theories of Disability. *The Disability Bioethics Reader*.  Reynolds, J. (2018). [Three Things Clinicians Should Know About Disability.](https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/article/three-things-clinicians-should-know-about-disability/2018-12) (<https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/article/three-things-clinicians-should-know-about-disability/2018-12>)  Miles, J.K. (2023). *Practical Bioethics: Ethics for Patients and Providers*. Broadview Press, pp. 205-220.  **Watching**:  Lessons from the fifth week &  Vox. (2023). [A fact-checked debate about euthanasia in Canada](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJAklSh_rjk&ab_channel=Vox). (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJAklSh\_rjk&ab\_channel=Vox) | Quiz 5: (5%) & Second exam (20%) |
| 6 | Contemporary Ethics – Part 3   * Animal Ethics * Sentience * Gender Norms * Submission * Adaptive Preferences | June 10-14 | **Reading**:  Norcross, A. (2004). Puppies, Pigs, and People: Eating Meat and Marginal Cases. *Philosophical Perspectives*, 18, 229–245.  [Why you should eat meat](https://aeon.co/essays/if-you-care-about-animals-it-is-your-moral-duty-to-eat-them) (<https://aeon.co/essays/if-you-care-about-animals-it-is-your-moral-duty-to-eat-them>)  Knowles, C., & Melo Lopes, F. (2023). [How to dress like a feminist: A relational ethics of non-complicity.](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0020174X.2023.2233014) *Inquiry*, 0(0), 1–38. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0020174X.2023.2233014>  Garcia, M. (2021). [It’s Time to Talk about Women’s Submission](https://blog.apaonline.org/2021/04/28/submission-is-womens-destiny-but-we-can-change-that/). In *APA Blog*. https ://blog.apaonline.org/2021/04/28/submission-is-womens-destiny-but-we-can-change-that/  **Watching**:  Lessons from the sixth week &  [Ethics Matters](https://ethicsmatterstvseries.com/05shaping-our-bodies/) (https://ethicsmatterstvseries.com/05shaping-our-bodies/) | Quiz 6: (5%) |
| 7 | Contemporary Ethics – Part 4   * Immigration and Refugees | June 17-18 | **Reading**: Parekh, S. (2020). Reasons for and against Accepting Refugees: A Philosophical Overview. In *No Refuge: Ethics and the Global Refugee Crisis.*  **Listening**:  (Podcast) [Podcast – Front Burner - International students in Canada face discrimination, exploitation](https://www.cbc.ca/radio/frontburner/international-students-in-canada-face-discrimination-exploitation-1.6950263)  (<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/frontburner/international-students-in-canada-face-discrimination-exploitation-1.6950263>)  **Watching**:  Lessons from the seventh week and class revision | Self-reflective essay (9%)  (No quiz) |
|  | Final Exam | TBD | Online final exam during the exam period | Final Exam (30%) |

## Evaluation:

Students will be assessed on five components: (1) one self-reflective essay, (2) three exams, and (3) weekly quizzes.

* **Self-reflective assignment (10% of final grade):** By the end of the second week (May 17th 11:59pm), I require you to submit a self-reflective essay on an ethical dilemma you encountered in your life (or that someone close to you encountered). I will give you **one point** for completing this essay (pass/fail, I will not write comments on your first description of this ethical dilemma) on week 2. **You can earn up to 9% more by completing a short essay on this material in the last week of this class.**
* **First exam (15% of final grade):** This exam will test your understanding of the foundational concepts of ethics. You will write the outline of an essay based on one of three available essay topics. To get prepared for this exam, you will need to read (and understand) the materials assigned from the *Applied Ethics Primer*. This exam will be opened for 24 hours on May 24, and you will have 90 minutes to complete it.
* **Second exam (20% of final grade**): In this exam, you will write an essay about the course content. You will be able to choose between three topics. This exam will be opened for 24 hours on June 7, and you will have 90 minutes to complete it.
* **Final exam (30% of final grade):** In this exam, you will answer short-answer and long-answer questions about the course materials and write an essay about the course content. You will be able to choose between three topics for your final essay. This exam will be opened for 24 hours, and you will have 180 minutes to complete it. **Date: To be announced.**
* **Weekly quizzes (25% of final grade):** Every week, you will be required to complete an online quiz composed of multiple-choice and true/false questions on Brightspace. There will be 6 quizzes available. I will drop the lowest score, and only 5 quizzes will be included for your final grade (each quiz will be worth 5% of your final grade). These quizzes are due on Fridays 11:59pm and you have 20 minutes to complete them.

## Course Policies (Including late work)

Unless other arrangements are made, in advance and in writing, with the course instructor, **essays sent after the due date** will be penalized by 5% for the first day they are late and then 2% for every subsequent day (including weekends), unless accompanied by documented evidence or a filled [self-declaration form](https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/self-declaration.pdf).

All assignments should be submitted to me through the Brightspace dropbox. Please submit a file in Word or Rich Text Format (no .pdf files please).

If you have **questions** about the class, I encourage you to post your question(s) under the **Ask your instructor** discussion forum on Brightspace.

If you **email** me, use your Carleton email address, and write the course code (PHIL1550) in the subject line. If you haven’t received a response within 48 hours (excluding weekends), feel free to send me a quick follow up email.

1. Statement on Plagiarism

### Generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (CHATGPT, ETC.)

We would discuss this more in class together, but I would encourage you to refrain yourself for using these tools for your work submitted for this class. I want to be able to hear your distinctive voice when I read your essay and these tools will not reproduce your voice.

Using AI tools to generate content for assignments, and presenting it as one’s own original work, as well as copying or paraphrasing the content produced by AI tools without proper citations or the instructor’s consent, are both considered to be in violation of academic integrity.

Note that I can ask you to submit drafts or answer questions on the writing process if I have suspicions that you did not write what you submitted for this course.

### PLAGIARISM

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.”  This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

**Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:**

* any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
* using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
* using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
* submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
* failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course or even suspension or expulsion from the University.

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“Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copyright protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).”

**Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Summer 2024)**

**Assignments:**

Please follow your professor’s instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically.

**Evaluation:**

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

**Deferrals for Term Work:**

If students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, they should contact their course instructor no later than *three working days* of the due date. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of the term. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

**Deferrals for Final Exams:**

Students are expected to be available for the duration of a course including the examination period. Occasionally, students encounter circumstances beyond their control where they may not be able to write a final examination or submit a take-home examination. Examples of this would be a serious illness or the death of a family member. If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a take-home examination by the due date, you may apply for a deferral no later than *three working days* after the original due date (as per the University Regulations in [Section 4.3 of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/examinations/#deferred-final-exams)). Visit the [Registrar’s Office](https://carleton.ca/registrar/) for further 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. ([Section 10.1 of the Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations](https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/academic-integrity-and-offenses-of-conduct/#academic-integrity-policy))

**Academic Accommodation:**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term:

* *Pregnancy or religious obligation*: Please contact your instructor 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://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf).
* *Academic accommodations for students with disabilities:* If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more details, visit the [Paul Menton Centre website](http://carleton.ca/pmc).
* *Survivors of Sexual Violence:* As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton’s Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](http://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)
* *Accommodation for* [*Student Activities*](https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf)*:* Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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.

**Important Dates:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| May 6 Classes start.  May 10 Last day for registration and course changes for early summer courses.  May 17Last day for registration and course changes for full summer courses.  May 17 Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from early summer courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.  May 20 Statutory holiday, University closed.  May 31 Last day to withdraw from full summer courses with a full fee adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.  June 11 Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade for early summer courses before the official examination period.  June 18 Last day for early summer classes.  Last day for handing in term work, subject to any earlier course deadline.  June 19-20 No classes or examinations take place.  June 21-27 Final examinations.  June 27 Take-home examinations for early summer courses are due. | July 1 Statutory holiday, University closed.  July 2 Late summer courses begin and full summer courses resume.  July 8 Last day for registration and course changes for late summer courses.  July 15 Last day to withdraw from late summer courses with a full fee adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.  Aug. 1 Last day for academic withdrawal from full and late summer courses.  Aug. 5 Civic holiday, University closed.  Aug. 7 Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade for late summer and full summer courses before the official examination period.  Aug. 14 Last day of late and full summer term classes.  Classes follow a Monday schedule. Last day for handing in term work, subject to any earlier course deadline.  Aug. 15-16 No classes or examinations take place.  Aug. 17-23 Final examinations.  Aug. 23 Take-home examinations for late or full summer courses are due. |
|  |  |

**Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:

[www.carleton.ca/philosophy](http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy)

520-2110

Registrar’s Office:

[www.carleton.ca/registrar](http://www.carleton.ca/registrar)

520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:

[www.carleton.ca/academicadvising](http://www.carleton.ca/academicadvising)

520-7850

Writing Services:

<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>

520-3822

MacOdrum Library

<http://www.library.carleton.ca/>

520-2735