

PHIL 1550 Introduction to Ethics and Social Issues

Carleton University

Course Outline

Term: Summer 2021

Time: Mon. & Wed.

Location: Online

Instructor: Philippe-Antoine Hoyeck

Office: N/A

Office hours: By appointment only

Phone: N/A

Email: philippeantoin.hoyeck@carleton.ca

Course Description

This course is an introduction to understanding, assessing, and formulating ethical arguments concerning controversial issues. Particular issues studied, such as world hunger, capital punishment, abortion, animal rights, and terrorism may vary each time the course is offered.

Learning Outcomes

This course is structured according to two goals. The first is to introduce students to the main ethical theories in contemporary Western ethical thought. The second is to bring students to think critically about contemporary moral and social issues. Accordingly, the class is divided into two units: Ethics in Theory and Ethics in Practice. The first unit introduces students to different theoretical frameworks and explores how to reason cogently about moral and social issues. The second unit applies these theoretical frameworks to pressing issues including euthanasia, animal treatment, abortion, racial and sexual discrimination, freedom of speech, and economic justice.

Course Materials

Readings for the course are taken from two different textbooks, listed below. Both are available for free online via the Carleton Library website. *There is no need to purchase any books for this class.* Links to relevant readings will be posted on CULearn.

- Benn, Piers, *Ethics*. New York: Routledge, 1998.
- Hugh Lafollette, ed. *Ethics in Practice: An Anthology*, 4th Edition. Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell, 2014.

Course Requirements

This is an online course. Classes will primarily take the form of prerecorded lectures be posted to CULearn twice weekly on Mondays and Wednesdays. Students are expected to keep up with posted lecture materials, including readings and lectures. Review sessions on BigBlueButton are mandatory and should be treated like regular lectures. However, they will be recorded for student who cannot attend.

Evaluations:

- Weekly online quizzes 20%
- Non-cumulative Test #1 (May 19th – May 20th) 25%
- Non-cumulative Test #2 (June 2nd – June 3rd) 25%
- Final exam (TBA) 30%

Course Policies

- Completion of online weekly quizzes is mandatory and cannot be made up under any circumstances.
- The instructor will not hold regular office hours. Office hours will be held by appointment on BigBlueButton.
- The instructor reserves the right to modify the order and content of lectures. Students will always be notified ahead of time in the event of a change.
- The instructor will try to respond to emails promptly. However, students should allow up to two business days for answers.

Course Calendar — Winter 2020

| Unit One Ethics in Theory | |
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| May 10th | Introduction (BigBlueButton) Lecture 1 — Ethical Theory Reading: “Theorising About Ethics,” Lafollette, p. 5–9 |
| May 12th | Lecture 2 — Consequentialist Ethics Lecture 3 — Deontological Ethics Readings: “Consequentialism,” Lafollette, p. 28–36 “Deontology,” Lafollette, p. 28–48 |
| May 17th | Lecture 4 — Virtue Ethics Lecture 5 — Contractualist Ethics Reading: “Virtue Ethics,” LaFollette p. 60–69 “Contractualism,” Benn, p. 113–132 |
| May 19th | Ethics in Theory Review (BigBlueButton) <i>Non-Cumulative Test #1 (available May 19th – May 20th)</i> |
| Unit Two Ethics in Practice | |
| May 24th | Lecture 6 — Euthanasia, Pt. 1 Lecture 7 — Euthanasia, Pt. 2 Readings: Brad Hooker, “Rule-Utilitarianism and Euthanasia,” Lafollette, p. 76–84 J. David Velleman, “Against the Right to Die,” Lafollette, p. 92–101 |
| May 26th | Lecture 8 — Animals. Pt. 1 Lecture 9 — Animals. Pt. 2 Readings: Peter Singer, “All Animals are Equal,” Lafollette, p. 172–181 Tom Regan, “The Case for Animal Rights,” Lafollette, p. 192–197 |
| May 31st | Lecture 10 — Abortion, Pt. 1 Lecture 11 — Abortion, Pt. 2 Readings: Judith J. Thomson, “A Defense of Abortion,” Lafollette, p. 124–131 Mary A. Warren, “The Moral and Legal Status of Abortion,” Lafollette, p. 132–140 |
| June 2nd | Lecture 12 — Abortion, Pt. 3 Ethics in Practice Review 1 (BigBlueButton) |

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| | <p>Reading: Don Marquis, "An Argument that Abortion is Wrong," Lafollette p. 141-150</p> <p><i>Non-Cumulative Test #2 (available June 2nd - June 3rd)</i></p> |
| June 7th | <p>Lecture 13 — Racial and Sexual Discrimination, Pt. 1 Lecture 14 — Racial and Sexual Discrimination, Pt. 2 Readings: Michele Moody-Adams, "Racism," Lafollette, p. 392-400 Anita M. Superson, "Sexual Harassment," Lafollette, p. 407-414</p> |
| June 9th | <p>Lecture 15 — Freedom of Speech, Pt. 1 Lecture 16 — Freedom of Speech, Pt. 2 Readings: John Arthur, "Sticks & Stones," Lafollette, p. 370-380 Andrew Altman, "Speech Codes & Expressive Harm," Lafollette, p. 381-388</p> |
| June 14th | <p>Lecture 17 — Economic Justice, Pt. 1 Lecture 18 — Economic Justice, Pt. 2 Readings: John Rawls, "A Theory of Justice," Lafollette p. 513-523 Robert Nozick, "The Entitlement Theory of Justice," Lafollette, p. 524-534</p> |
| June 16th | <p>Lecture 19 — Economic Justice, Pt. 3 Reading: Iris M. Young, "The Distributive Paradigm," Lafollette, p. 535-544</p> |
| June 18th | <p>Ethics in Practice Review 2 (BigBlueButton)</p> |

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Summer 2021)

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](#)). Visit the [Registrar's Office](#) 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](#))

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](#).
- *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 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](#).
- *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
- *Accommodation for Student Activities:* 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:

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| May 6 | Classes start. | July 1 | Statutory holiday, University closed. |
| May 13 | Last day for registration and course changes for <u>early</u> summer courses. | July 2 | Late summer courses begin and full summer courses resume. |
| May 20 | Last day for registration and course changes for <u>full</u> summer courses. | July 9 | Last day for registration and course changes for <u>late</u> summer courses. |
| May 21 | Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from <u>early</u> and <u>full</u> summer courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript. | July 23 | Last day to withdraw from <u>late</u> summer courses with a full fee adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript. |
| May 24 | Statutory holiday, University closed. | Aug. 2 | Civic holiday, University closed. |
| June 11 | Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade for <u>early</u> summer courses before the official examination period. | Aug. 9 | Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade for <u>late</u> summer and <u>full</u> summer courses before the official examination period. |
| June 18 | Last day for <u>early</u> summer classes. Classes follow a Monday schedule. Last day for handing in term work, subject to any earlier course deadline. | Aug. 16 | Last day of <u>late</u> and <u>full</u> summer term classes. Last day for handing in term work, subject to any earlier course deadline. Last day for academic withdrawal from <u>late</u> summer and <u>full</u> summer courses. |
| June 19-20 | No classes or examinations take place. | Aug. 17-18 | No classes or examinations take place. |
| June 21-27 | Final examinations. | Aug. 19-25 | Final examinations. |
| June 27 | Take-home examinations for <u>early</u> summer courses are due. | Aug. 25 | Take-home examinations for <u>late</u> or <u>full</u> summer courses are due. |

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:
www.carleton.ca/philosophy
520-2110

Registrar's Office:
www.carleton.ca/registrar
520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:
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