

**PHIL 1550**  
**Introduction to Ethics and Social Issues**  
Fall 2017  
T – 2:33-3:55/TH – 2:35-3:55

Instructor: Josephine Nielsen  
Office: 3A38 Patterson Hall  
Office Hours: T – 11:30-12:30 or by appointment  
Room: TBA  
Email: [josephine.nielsen@carleton.ca](mailto:josephine.nielsen@carleton.ca)

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an introduction to philosophical thinking, focusing specifically on ethical and social issues that impact our everyday lives. Students will learn about ethical theories in general, supplemented by real life questions that put those ethical theories into practice.

Throughout the course, students will participate in class assignments, write tests, and write a short essay to show their understanding of the material covered in class and to practice their critical thinking skills.

Students are expected to come to class having done all the readings.

### **CONDITIONS OF ENROLMENT**

Precludes additional credits from FYSM 1209 and PHIL 1500

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Burnor, Richard, and Yvonne Raley. (2017) *Ethical Choices: An Introduction to Moral Philosophy with Cases, Second Edition*. Oxford University Press.  
Available at Haven Books

Vaughn, Lewis, and Jillian Scott McIntosh. ( 2006) *Writing Philosophy: A Guide for Canadian Students, Second Edition*. Oxford University Press  
Available at Haven Books

### **COURSE EVALUATION**

- 1) Test 1 (15%)  
Date: Oct 10

Students will write their first in-class test on Oct 10. It will cover all material covered up to, and including, on Oct 5. The test will consist of a variety of forms of questions,

including short answer and fill in the blank. Tests will be graded out of 100%. Students will only be able to write the test on alternative days if they provide the instructor with appropriate documentation (e.g., a doctor's note).

- 2) Test 2 (15%)  
Date: Nov 16

Students will write their second in-class test on Nov 9. It will cover all material discussed between Oct 12 and Nov 14. The test will consist of a variety of forms of questions, including short answer and fill in the blank. Tests will be graded out of 100%. Students will only be able to write the test on alternative days if they provide the instructor with appropriate documentation (e.g., a doctor's note).

- 3) In-class Assignments (25%)

There will be five in class assignments to be completed in groups of 3 or 4. One assignment will be passed in with all the participating students' names on it. One grade will be assigned to all the students who work on each particular assignment. The assignments will be comprised of a series of questions to be answered thoughtfully and critically. Make-up assignments will only be permitted if students provide the instructor with appropriate documentation (e.g., a doctor's note).

- 4) Essay (15%)  
Due: Nov 30 at 11:55pm

Students are expected to write a four page paper (double spaced) on one of three topics provided by the instructor. Papers should be no shorter than four pages and should not exceed six pages. The topics will be assigned on Nov 9. More information will be provided in class.

- 5) Final Exam (30%)  
Date: TBA

Students will be expected to write a cumulative exam during the exam period. The exam will be made up of, in part, short and long answers. Students will be tested both on the material covered in class, but they will also be expected to evaluate the material.

## **POLICIES**

- Given the sensitive nature of the topics covered in the class, students are expected to be respectful and thoughtful of one another – everyone will have a chance to voice their thoughts without being interrupted or spoken down to. Anyone who does not follow this may be asked to leave the classroom for the remainder of that class.

- Cell phones and disruptions in class will not be tolerated. Students who do disrupt the class will be asked to leave the rest of that class.
- The instructor will be available for discussion and questions in class, during office hours, and through email (both through [josephine.nielsen@carleton.ca](mailto:josephine.nielsen@carleton.ca) and through CULearn). That being said, please limit email questions to administrative questions.
- Extensions will not be granted except for under extenuating circumstances and with the proper documentation (e.g., a doctor's note). In-class assignments will *not* be accepted late under any circumstances and will *only* be accepted in class.
- Late papers will be deducted 3% per day (including weekend days). This means that a paper that originally relied on an 82% will be deducted to a 79% if one day late.
- All grades will be given as percentages first and then converted to letter grades.
- The reading outlined in the syllabus *may* be changed throughout the term and should not be taken as definite.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

Sept 7 – Introduction Class

### Normative Ethics

Sept 12 – Documentary: *The Examined Life*  
In-class assignment

Sept 14 – Documentary: *The Examined Life*  
In-class assignment

Sept 19 – *Writing Philosophy: A Guide for Canadian Students*, Chapter Two (How to Read and Evaluate an Argument)

Sept 21 – *Ethical Choices*, Chapter One (Ethics and Values)

Sept 26 – *Ethical Choices*, Chapter Two (Moral Relativism)

Sept 28 – *Ethical Choices*, Chapter Three (Personal Autonomy and Moral Agency)

Oct 3 – *Ethical Choices*, Chapter Four (Making Moral Judgments)

Oct 5 – *Ethical Choices*, Chapter Five (Moral Psychology and Egoism)

Oct 10 – Test 1

Oct 12 – *Ethical Choices*, Chapter Six (Consequentialist Ethics: Act Utilitarianism)

Oct 17 – *Ethical Choices*, Chapter Seven (Consequentialist Ethics: Rule Utilitarianism)

Oct 19 – In-class Assignment

Oct 23 – Oct 27: READING WEEK (no class)

Oct 31 – *Ethical Choices*, Chapter Eight (Deontological Ethics)

Nov 2 – In-class Assignment

Nov 7 – *Ethical Choices*, Chapter Nine (Natural Law Theory)

Nov 9 – Essay Writing Class

Nov 14 – *Ethical Choices*, Chapter Ten (Social Contracts and Rights)

Nov 16 – Test 2

Nov 21 – *Ethical Choices*, Chapter Eleven (Virtue Ethics)

Nov 23 – In-class Assignment

Nov 28 – *Ethical Choices*, Chapter Twelve (Feminism and Care Ethics)

Nov 30 – *Ethical Choices*, Chapter Thirteen (Ethics and Religion)

Essay due at 11:55pm on CULearn

Dec 5 – *Ethical Choices*, Chapter Fourteen (Pluralism in Theoretical and Applied Ethics)

Dec 7 – Exam Prep

## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2017-18)

### 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 Final Exams:

If you miss a final examination (formally scheduled or take-home) because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral. You must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of your formally scheduled exam or within 3 working days after the due date of a take-home exam. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information:

<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/#2.5>

### 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. <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

### 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](mailto: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. 6	Classes start.
Sept. 19	Last day for registration and course changes for Fall term and Fall/Winter (two-term) courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 9	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 23-27	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for summative or final examinations in Fall term courses before the official examination period.
Dec. 8	Last day of Fall term classes. <b>Classes follow a Monday schedule.</b> Last day for academic withdrawal from Fall term courses. 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 a Fall term course.
Dec. 10-22	Final examinations for Fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 22	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 8	Classes begin.
Jan. 19	Last day for registration and course changes in the Winter term.
Jan. 31	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from Winter term courses or from the Winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 19	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 19-23	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 27	Last day for summative or final examinations in Winter term or two-term courses before the official examination period.
Mar. 30	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 11	Last day of two-term and Winter term classes. <b>Classes follow a Friday schedule.</b> Last day for academic withdrawal from Fall/Winter and Winter courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for two-term and for Winter term courses.
Apr. 14-26	Final examinations for Winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 26	All take home examinations are due on this day.

### Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy">www.carleton.ca/philosophy</a> 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/registrar">www.carleton.ca/registrar</a> 520-3500
Academic Advising Centre:	302 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/academicadvising">www.carleton.ca/academicadvising</a> 520-7850
Writing Services:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/">http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/</a> 520-3822
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735