

PHIL 1550: Introduction to Ethics and Social Issues
Fall 2018
Syllabus

Instructor Information

Course instructor: Dr. Nalini E. Ramlakhan

Office location: TBA

E-mail: naliniramlakhan@cunet.carleton.ca

Office hours: Wednesdays 10AM-11AM and Thursdays 6PM-8PM

TA information: TBA

Course Information

Fall 2018, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:05PM-5:25PM

Course title: Introduction to Ethics and Social Issues

Course number: 1550 A

Room: Southam Hall THB

Department: Philosophy

Prerequisite(s): None.

Additional information: Precludes additional credit for FYSM 1209 and PHIL 1500.

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. Students are responsible for keeping current with the information on CULearn. Students must check CULearn regularly for important messages, course information, assignment information, and exam information. The essay, mini assignments, and take-home exam are to be submitted via CULearn.

Course Description

An introduction to understanding, assessing, and formulating ethical arguments concerning controversial issues. This course engages in both theoretical and applied ethics. Students will explore different ethical theories such as hedonism, deontology, utilitarianism, care ethics, virtue ethics, and Buddhist ethics. Students will apply different ethical theories to examine and evaluate issues in topics which may include animal rights, environmental ethics, medical ethics, and human enhancement.

Dos and Don'ts

Do complete the readings, come to class, and complete your assignments on time. Students are expected to come to class prepared, having completed the required readings. 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 be disruptive during class or use cellular phones during class.

Course Text

We will be using a platform called Top Hat, which is an interactive online platform for textbooks. Top Hat is easy to use and access, and can be used both online and offline. You will need to subscribe to Top Hat in order to access the course text. Many other classes at Carleton require Top Hat, and your subscription is good for these courses as well. The cost of the textbook and subscription to Top Hat is relatively cheaper for students compared to the pricing for texts previously used for this course and others. The purpose of using Top Hat is not only to lower the cost of the textbook, but to get students further engaged with the course material. Embedded in each chapter, students will find questions that allow them to test their knowledge of the material while earning bonus marks that will apply to the final course grade. Using Top Hat for this course will allow for further engagement and discussion with course material.

Articles and other course materials: accessed via Google Scholar and Carleton's Library Portal (see schedule).

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

Evaluation

TEST 1

Value: 15%

Date: October 18th, 2018

Description: This test will be in multiple choice, true/false, and short and long answer format. Students will be given full class time to complete the test. The test will begin at 4:05PM and end at 5:25PM. Students arriving thirty minutes after the test has started will not be permitted to write the test. See 'Notes' for missed tests.

TEST 2

Value: 20%

Date: November 22nd, 2018

Description: This test will be in multiple choice, true/false, and short and long answer format. This test is summative, and it is expected that students will apply the ethical theories discussed throughout the course to some of the issues discussed both in class and in the course text. Students will be given full class time to complete the test. The test will begin at 4:05PM and end at 5:25PM. Students arriving thirty minutes after the test has started will not be permitted to write the test. See 'Notes' for missed tests.

MINI ASSIGNMENTS (4 assignments X 5% each)

Value: 20%

Date: See course schedule for assignment distribution dates. Students will have 5 days from the assignment distribution date to complete the assignment.

Description: Students will engage in course material by completing assignments. Assignments will enhance students' abilities to create and analyze arguments, debate theories and ideas, and write a scholarly essay in philosophy. If a student does not complete the assignment by the due date, they will receive a 0 for the assignment unless verifiable documentation is received (e.g., doctor's note). Upon verified documentation, a make-up assignment will be provided. See 'Notes' section for further information. Assignments must be submitted via CULearn on or before the due date.

ESSAY

Value: 15%

Due date: November 29th, 2018

Description: Topics will be given in class (see schedule). Papers are to be submitted via CULearn on or before the due date.

Papers must be typed, double-spaced, 12 point font Times New Roman, and must not exceed 6 pages (not including a title page and bibliography). Papers should be 4-6 pages in length, and must include a bibliography. Students will be provided with a writing workshop/tutorial (see schedule below).

Late essay submissions will be penalized one full letter grade per day, including weekends (if a B+ paper is handed in a day late, it will receive a C+). Late essays will be accepted without penalty only if there is a legitimate reason. Extensions may be granted under special circumstances. If you need an extension, you must see the instructor at least one week before the essay is due. There is no guarantee for an extension. Essays submitted after December 7th will not be accepted (see policy page below).

TAKE-HOME EXAM

Value: 30%

Due date: December 21st, 2018

Description: The final due date is December 21st. Exams can be handed in from December 10th-December 21st. Exams must be submitted via CULearn on or before the due date. Request for deferrals must be submitted to the registrar's office (see policy page below). Students must work independently.

NOTES

1. The standard time for returning graded tests, assignments, etc. is two weeks from the date of the test or assignment due date. If additional time is needed for grading, announcements will be made in class or posted on the CULearn website.
2. If a disagreement over a grade occurs, the student can appeal the grade to the instructor after having discussed the grade with the TA.
3. A make-up test 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. This is the student's responsibility. Arrangements must be made directly with the instructor. There are no exceptions.
4. Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Class Schedule

Unit 1: Introduction to Philosophy and Ethics

September 6th

Overview of course syllabus and class expectations

Introduction to Philosophy

Readings: Introduction

September 11th

Introduction to Philosophy and Ethics

Readings: Introduction

September 13th

Introduction to Philosophy and Ethics

Documentary: The Examined Life

Readings: No Readings

Assignment 1 distributed

Unit 2: The Good Life and Ethics

September 18th

Ethics and Values

Readings: Chapter 1. The Good Life and Ethics

Plato, Ring of Gyges

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/d6f3/957113c5d0b52247e80753aa3ff68fa5bdd8.pdf>

September 20th

Hedonism and Egoism

Readings: Chapter 1. The Good Life and Ethics

Nozick, R. (2013). The Experience Machine. <http://www.aaron-zimmerman.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Nozick-Parfit.pdf> (first two pages only. Parfit's chapter is optional)

Unit 3: Ethical Theories

September 25th

Virtue Ethics

Readings: Chapter 2. Virtue Ethics

September 27th

Deontological Ethics

Readings: Chapter 3. Deontological Ethics

October 2nd

Consequentialist Ethics

Readings: Chapter 4. Consequentialist Ethics

Assignment 2 distributed

October 4th

Feminist Ethics

Readings: Chapter 5. Feminist Ethics

October 9th

Buddhist Ethics

Readings: Chapter 6. Buddhist Ethics

October 11th

Buddhist Ethics

Readings: Chapter 6. Buddhist Ethics

October 16th

Buddhist Ethics

Documentary: TBA

Review for test

Readings: No Readings

October 18th

Test 1

Readings: No Readings

Unit 4: Ethics and Social Issues

October 30th

Animal Ethics

Readings: Chapter 7. Animal Ethics

November 1st

Animal Ethics

Documentary: TBA

Readings: No Readings

Assignment 3 distributed

November 6th

Environmental Ethics

Readings: Chapter 8. Environmental Ethics

November 8th

Writing Workshop

Readings: No Readings

Essay topics distributed

November 13th

Personal Autonomy

Medical Ethics

Readings: Chapter 9. Contemporary Ethical and Social Issues: Autonomy and Medical Ethics

November 15th

Personal Autonomy

Medical Ethics

Readings: Chapter 9. Contemporary Ethical and Social Issues: Autonomy and Medical Ethics

November 20th

Personal Autonomy

Medical Ethics

Readings: Chapter 9. Contemporary Ethical and Social Issues: Autonomy and Medical Ethics

Review for test

November 22nd

Test 2

November 27th

No Class

November 29th

The Ethics of Human Enhancement

Documentary: Who's Afraid of Designer Babies? The Ethics of Genetic Screening

Readings: No Readings

Essays due

Assignment 4 distributed

December 4th

The Ethics of Human Enhancement

Readings: Chapter 10. Contemporary Ethical and Social Issues: Human Enhancement

December 6th

The Ethics of Human Enhancement

Readings: Chapter 10. Contemporary Ethical and Social Issues: Human Enhancement

Take-home exam distributed

Final class

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2018-19)

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 on the first page: student name and number; course name and number; instructor's name.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates below.
- 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.

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 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:

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. carleton.ca/pmc

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/>

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 is 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

Important Dates:

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| Sept. 5 | Classes start. |
| Sept. 18 | 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. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript. |
| Oct. 8 | Statutory holiday. University closed. |
| Oct. 22-26 | Fall Break – no classes. |
| Nov. 23 | Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, before the official examination period. |
| Dec. 7 | Last day of fall term classes. Classes follow a Monday schedule. 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. 9-21 | 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. 21 | All take-home examinations are due. |
| Jan. 7 | Classes begin. |
| Jan. 18 | 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. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript. |
| Feb. 18 | Statutory holiday. University closed. |
| Feb. 18-22 | Winter Break – no classes. |
| Mar. 26 | Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in winter term or fall/winter courses before the official examination period. |
| Apr. 9 | Last day of two-term and winter term classes. 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. 12-27 | Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week. |
| Apr. 19-21 | Statutory holiday. University closed. No examinations take place. |
| Apr. 27 | All take-home examinations are due on this day. |

Addresses:

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