

PHIL 1550 Introduction to Ethics and Social Issues Carleton University

Course Outline

Term: Summer 2020

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:

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| • Weekly online quizzes | 20% |
| • Non-cumulative Test #1 (July 14 th – July 19 th) | 25% |
| • Non-cumulative Test #2 (July 28 th – Aug. 2 nd) | 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	
July 6th	Introduction (BigBlueButton) Lecture 1 — Ethical Theory Reading: “Theorising About Ethics,” LaFollette, p. 5–9
July 8th	Lecture 2 — Consequentialist Ethics Lecture 3 — Deontological Ethics Readings: “Consequentialism,” LaFollette, p. 28–36 “Deontology,” LaFollette, p. 28–48
July 13th	Lecture 4 — Virtue Ethics Lecture 5 — Contractualist Ethics Reading: “Virtue Ethics,” LaFollette p. 60–69 “Contractualism,” Benn, p. 113–132
July 15th	Ethics in Theory Review (BigBlueButton) <i>Non-Cumulative Test #1 (available July 15th–July 19th)</i>
Unit 2 Ethics in Practice	
July 20th	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
July 22nd	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

<p>July 27th</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>July 29th</p>	<p>Lecture 12 — Abortion, Pt. 3 Ethics in Practice Review 1 (BigBlueButton) Reading: Don Marquis, “An Argument that Abortion is Wrong,” Lafollette p. 141–150</p> <p><i>Non-Cumulative Test #2 (available July 29th – August 2nd)</i></p>
<p>August 3rd</p>	<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>
<p>August 5th</p>	<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>
<p>August 10th</p>	<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>
<p>August 12th</p>	<p>Lecture 19 — Economic Justice, Pt. 3 Ethics in Practice Review 2 (BigBlueButton) Reading: Iris M. Young, “The Distributive Paradigm,” Lafollette, p. 535–544</p>

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Summer 20)

Assignments:

Please follow your professor's instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically. There will be NO hard copies placed in the essay box this summer.

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 Examinations:

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:* 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 [EDC](#) website.
- *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 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 test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.
- *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](#).
- *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:

May 4	Classes start.	July 1	Statutory holiday, University closed.
May 11	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 15	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 18	Statutory holiday, University closed.	July 17	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 22	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.	Aug. 3	Civic holiday, University closed
June 9	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. 7	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 16	Last day for <u>early</u> summer classes. Last day for handing in term work, subject to any earlier course deadline. Last day for academic withdrawal from <u>early</u> summer courses.	Aug. 14	Last day of <u>late</u> and <u>full</u> summer term classes. Classes follow a Monday schedule. 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 19-25	Final examinations.	Aug. 17-23	Final examinations.
June 25	Take-home examinations for <u>early</u> summer courses are due.	Aug. 23	Take-home examinations for <u>late</u> or <u>full</u> summer courses are due.

Useful Contacts:

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

Centre for Student Academic Support: <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
520-3822

Student Support Services : <https://carleton.ca/academics/support/>