

# PHIL 1550 Introduction to Ethics and Social Issues Carleton University

## Course Outline

**Term:** Winter 2020

**Time:** Mon. & Wed. 1:05 pm–2:25 pm

**Location:** TBA

**Instructor:** Philippe-Antoine Hoyeck

**Office:** PA 3A56

**Office hours:** Tues. & Thurs. 1:00 pm–2:00 pm

**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 incite students to think critically about contemporary 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 ethical and political questions. The second unit applies these theoretical frameworks to pressing issues pertaining to bioethics, social and economic justice.

### Course Materials

All readings for the course are included in the fourth edition of *Ethics in Practice*, edited by Hugh Lafolette. The book is available for purchase at the Bookstore. It is also available for free online via the Carleton Library website. Students do not need to purchase a hard copy, but are strongly encouraged to do so.

#### **Required Readings:**

- Hugh Lafolette, ed. *Ethics in Practice: An Anthology*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell, 2014.

### Course Requirements

Attendance and participation are important to succeeding in this course. PowerPoint slides will be posted online on CULearn for students' convenience. This is meant to facilitate study and review and should not replace attendance and participation. Anything presented during lectures may be relevant to tests and assignments, including material not included in the readings. Classes are generally very interactive. Students will therefore get the most out of the class if they review readings ahead of time and come prepared to discuss them.

**Evaluations:**

- Non-cumulative Test #1 (Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>) 25%
- Non-cumulative Test #2 (Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>) 25%
- Short Written Assignment (March 26<sup>th</sup>) 15%
- Cumulative final exam (TBA) 35%

**Course Policies**

- 10% will be deducted from late assignments per day. Extensions will be granted only under special circumstances and may require documentation.
- Written assignments are to be submitted in class. Late assignments can be left in the drop box at the philosophy department. No online submissions will be accepted.
- Students who miss class are expected to obtain notes from their peers; however, they are also encouraged to consult the instructor during regular office hours or by appointment for additional clarification.
- The instructor will try to respond to emails promptly. However, students should allow up to two business days for answers.

**Course Calendar — Winter 2020**

<b>Jan. 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Introduction to Course</b> <b>Readings:</b> "General Introduction," p. 1-2 "Theorizing About Ethics," p. 3-10 "Reading Philosophy," p. 11-14
<b>Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> &amp; 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ethics in Theory I — Consequentialist &amp; Deontological Ethics</b> <b>Reading:</b> "Ethical Theory," p. 25-27 "Consequentialism," p. 28-36 "Deontology," p. 28-48
<b>Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> &amp; 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Ethics in Theory II — Rights and Virtue Ethics</b> <b>Reading:</b> "Rights," p. 49-59 "Virtue Ethics," p. 60-69
<b>Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ethics in Theory Catch-up and Review</b> No readings  <i>Non-cumulative test #1 January 28th</i>
<b>Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> &amp; Feb. 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ethics in Practice I — Euthanasia</b> <b>Readings:</b> "Euthanasia," p. 73-75 Brad Hooker, "Rule-Utilitarianism and Euthanasia," p. 76-84 J. David Velleman, "Against the Right to Die," p. 92-101

Feb 6 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ethics in Practice II — Abortion</b> <b>Readings:</b> “Abortion,” p. 121–123 Judith J. Thomson, “A Defense of Abortion,” p. 124–131 Mary A. Warren, “The Moral and Legal Status,” p. 132–140 Don Marquis, “An Argument that Abortion is Wrong,” p. 141–150
<b>Winter Break</b> <b>Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup></b>	
Feb. 25 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ethics in Practice III — Animals</b> <b>Readings:</b> “Animals,” p. 169–171 Peter Singer, “All Animals are Equal,” p. 172–181 R.G. Frey, “Moral Standing and Speciesism,” p. 181–191.
March 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ethics in Practice Catch-up and Review I</b> No readings  <i>Non-cumulative test #2 Feb. 27<sup>th</sup></i>
March 10 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ethics in Practice IV — Free Speech</b> <b>Readings:</b> “Free Speech,” p. 346 John Stuart Mill, “Freedom of Thought & Discussion,” p. 348–351 John Arthur, “Sticks & Stones,” p. 370–380 Andrew Altman, “Speech Codes & Expressive Harm,” p. 381–388
March 17 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ethics in Practice V — Sexual Discrimination</b> <b>Readings:</b> “Sexual and Racial Discrimination,” p. 389–391 Anita M. Superson, “Sexual Harassment,” p. 407–414 Lois Pineau, “Date Rape,” p. 415–421 Larry May & Robert Strikwerda, “Men in Groups,” p. 422–430
March 24 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ethics in Practice VI — Economic Justice</b> <b>Readings:</b> “Economic Justice,” p 510–513 John Rawls, “A Theory of Justice.” p. 513–523 Robert Nozick, “The Entitlement Theory of Justice,” p. 524–534 Iris M. Young, “The Distributive Paradigm,” p, 535–544  <i>Short Written Assignment due March 26<sup>th</sup></i>
April 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ethics in Practice Catch-up and Review II</b> No readings

*Cumulative final exam date to be determined*

## **Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2019–2020)**

- 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](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. [carleton.ca/pmc](http://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 its 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:** 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](http://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)

**Important Dates:**

Sept. 4	Classes start.
Sept. 17	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. 14	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 21-25	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 22	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. 6	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. 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. 6	Classes begin.
Jan. 17	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. 17	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 17-21	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 24	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. 7	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. 10	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 13-25	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 25	All take-home examinations are due on this day.

**Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy: 3A35 Paterson Hall  
[www.carleton.ca/philosophy](http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy)  
520-2110

Registrar's Office: 300 Tory  
[www.carleton.ca/registrar](http://www.carleton.ca/registrar)  
520-3500

Academic Advising Centre: 302 Tory  
[www.carleton.ca/academicadvising](http://www.carleton.ca/academicadvising)  
520-7850

Writing Services: 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Library  
<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>  
520-3822

MacOdrum Library <http://www.library.carleton.ca/>  
520-2735