

PHIL 1550 Introduction to Ethics and Social Issues

Carleton University

Course Outline

Term: Winter 2021

Time: Tues & Thurs. 2:35-3:55 pm

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 ethical and social issues. Accordingly, the class is divided into two units. The first is titled Ethics in Theory and introduces students to different theoretical frameworks for reasoning about ethical and social issues. The second is on Ethics in Practice. Its purpose is to apply the theoretical frameworks learned in the first unit to pressing ethical and social 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. Students will be 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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| • Non-cumulative Test #1 (Feb. 4 th – 7 th) | 25% |
| • Short written assignment (March 4 th) | 20% |
| • Non-cumulative Test #2 (March 13 th -16 th) | 25% |
| • Final exam (TBA) | 30% |

Course Policies

- 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 replies.

Course Calendar — Fall 2020

| UNIT I ETHICS IN THEORY | |
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| January 12 th & 14 th | Introduction (BigBlueButton Live Session) Lecture 1 — Ethical Theory Reading: "Theorising About Ethics," LaFollette, p. 5–9 |
| Week 2 January 19 th & 21 st | Lecture 2 — Consequentialist Ethics Lecture 3 — Deontological Ethics Readings: "Consequentialism," LaFollette, p. 28–36 "Deontology," LaFollette, p. 28–48 |
| Week 3 January 26 th & 28 th | Lecture 4 — Virtue Ethics Lecture 5 — Contractualist Ethics Reading: "Virtue Ethics," LaFollette p. 60–69 "Contractualism," Benn, p. 113–132 |
| Week 4 February 2 nd & 4 th | Ethics in Theory Review (BigBlueButton Live Session) Non-Cumulative Test #1 (available February 4th – 7th) |
| UNIT 2 ETHICS IN PRACTICE: LIFE AND DEATH | |
| Week 5 February 9 th & 11 th | 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 |
| Week 6 February 23 rd & 25 th | 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 |
| Week 7 March 2 nd & 4 th | Lecture 10 — Abortion, Pt. 1 Lecture 11 — Abortion, Pt. 2 Readings: Judith J. Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion," LaFollette, p. 124–131 Mary Warren, "The Moral and Legal Status of Abortion," LaFollette, p. 132–140 Short written assignment due March 4th |

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| Week 8 March 9th & 11th | Lecture 12 — Abortion, Pt. 3 Ethics in Practice Review 1 (BigBlueButton Live Session) Reading: Don Marquis, “An Argument that Abortion is Wrong,” LaFollette p. 141–150 |
| <p style="text-align: center;">UNIT 3 ETHICS IN PRACTICE: SOCIAL JUSTICE</p> | |
| Week 9 March 16th & 18th | Lecture 13 — Racial and Sexual Discrimination, Pt. 1 Readings: Michele Moody-Adams, “Racism,” LaFollette, p. 392–400 <i>Non-Cumulative Test #2 (available March 13th–16th)</i> |
| Week 10 March 23rd & 25th | Lecture 14 — Racial and Sexual Discrimination, Pt. 2 Lecture 15 — Freedom of Speech, Pt. 1 Readings: Anita M. Superson, “Sexual Harassment,” LaFollette, p. 407–414 John Arthur, “Sticks & Stones,” LaFollette, p. 370–380 |
| Week 11 March 30th & April 1st | Lecture 16 — Freedom of Speech, Pt. 2 Lecture 17 — Economic Justice, Pt. 1 Readings: Andrew Altman, “Speech Codes & Expressive Harm,” LaFollette, p. 381– 388 John Rawls, “A Theory of Justice,” LaFollette p. 513–523 |
| Week 12 April 6th & 8th | Lecture 18 — Economic Justice, Pt. 2 Lecture 19 — Economic Justice, Pt. 3 Readings: Robert Nozick, “The Entitlement Theory of Justice,” LaFollette, p. 524–534 Iris M. Young, “The Distributive Paradigm,” LaFollette, p. 535–544 |
| Week 13 April 13th | Ethics in Practice Review 2 (BigBlueButton Live Session) <i>Final Exam Date to be determined</i> |

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2020-21)

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 coming year.

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:* 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:

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| Sept. 9 | Classes start. |
| Sept. 23 | 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. 12 | Statutory holiday. University closed. |
| Oct. 26-30 | Fall Break – no classes. |
| Nov. 27 | 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. 11 | Last day of fall term classes. <i>Classes follow a Monday schedule.</i> 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. 12-23 | 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. 23 | All take-home examinations are due. |
| Jan. 11 | Classes begin. |
| Jan. 25 | 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. 15 | Statutory holiday. University closed. |
| Feb. 15-19 | Winter Break – no classes. |
| Mar. 31 | 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. 2 | Statutory holiday. University closed. |
| Apr. 14 | 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. <i>Classes follow a Friday schedule.</i> |
| Apr. 15 | No classes or examinations take place. |
| Apr. 16-27 | Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week. |
| Apr. 27 | All take-home examinations 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