PHIL 3320 Contemporary Ethical Theory

FALL 2017  Monday 2:35 – 5:25  Room: TBD

Instructor  Email  Office Hours
Matthew Scarfone  matthewscarfone@carleton.ca  Monday 1:30 in TBD Paterson

Prerequisite  Preclusion
PHIL 2020 or PHIL 2101  PHIL 2102

Description
This course serves as an introduction to issues in contemporary ethical theory, construed broadly to include both normative ethics and metaethics. We will begin by discussing the purported aims of ethical theory (such as its practical aim and its theoretical aim). We will then learn to describe these aims in terms of normative concepts, which includes both evaluative concepts (e.g. ‘good’, ‘right’, ‘bad’, ‘wrong’) and deontic concepts (e.g. ‘obligatory’, ‘permissible’, ‘forbidden’). Understanding these concepts will allow us analyse and assess the three major normative ethical theories (consequentialism, deontology, and virtue ethics), two less prominent but increasingly important normative theories (care ethics and pragmatism), and lastly two anti-theories (particularism and relativism).

Required Materials
Readings  All the readings are posted on cuLearn.
Hardware  In order to complete weekly quizzes, please bring a laptop, tablet, or smartphone to every class.

Evaluation
20% Weekly Quizzes
30% Midterm Paper (2500 words)
  Due in class on October 16
50% Take-home Exam (4000 words)
  Due on cuLearn on December 22
# Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 11</td>
<td>Introduction to ethical theory</td>
<td>Julia Driver <em>Ethics: The Fundamentals</em> (excerpt)</td>
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<td>Mark Timmons <em>Moral Theory: An Introduction</em> (excerpt)</td>
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<td>Sept. 18</td>
<td>Normative concepts</td>
<td>Christine Tappolet “Evaluative vs. Deontic Concepts”</td>
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<td>Simon Kirchin “Thick and Thin Concepts'”</td>
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<td>Sept. 25</td>
<td>Consequentialism</td>
<td>Julia Driver <em>Ethics: The Fundamentals</em> (excerpt)</td>
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<td>Oct. 2</td>
<td>Consequentialism</td>
<td>David Brink “Some Forms and Limits of Consequentialism”</td>
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<td>Midterm paper assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 9</td>
<td>No Class - Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>Deontology</td>
<td>Frances Kamm “Nonconsequentialism”</td>
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<td>Midterm paper due in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>No Class - Fall Break</td>
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<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>Deontology</td>
<td>Annette Baier “Discriminate Death-Dealing”</td>
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<td>Robert Nozick <em>Anarchy, State, Utopia</em> (excerpt)</td>
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<td>Nov. 6</td>
<td>Virtue ethics</td>
<td>Julia Annas “Virtue Ethics”</td>
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<td>Michael Stocker “The Schizophrenia of Modern Ethical Theories”</td>
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<td>Nov. 13</td>
<td>Virtue ethics</td>
<td>Rosalind Hursthouse “Are Virtues the Proper Starting Point for Morality?”</td>
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<td>Nov. 20</td>
<td>Care ethics</td>
<td>Carol Gilligan <em>In a Different Voice</em> (excerpt)</td>
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<td>Virginia Held “The Ethics of Care”</td>
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<td>Nov. 27</td>
<td>Pragmatism</td>
<td>Hugh LaFollette “Pragmatic Ethics”</td>
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<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>Particularism</td>
<td>Jonathan Dancy “Why Particularism?”</td>
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<td>Dec. 8</td>
<td>Relativism</td>
<td>Gilbert Harman “Moral Relativism”</td>
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<td>Final paper assigned</td>
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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/academicregulationsofttheuniversity/acadregssuniv2/#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 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.
- 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. 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. 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.
- Mar. 27: Last day for summative or final examinations in Winter term or two-term courses before the official examination period.
- Apr. 11: Last day of two-term and Winter term classes. Classes follow a Friday schedule. 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 term work for a Winter term course.
- 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 www.carleton.ca/philosophy
Registrar’s Office: 300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar
Academic Advising Centre: 302 Tory www.carleton.ca/academicadvising
Writing Services: 4th Floor, Library http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/
MacOdrum Library http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735