

PHIL 4320/5350 Ethics of Social Movements

Class schedule: Tuesday 2:35-5:35pm

Room: TBA

Instructor: Dr. Marie-Pier Lemay

Department of Philosophy Paterson Hall

Office: 3A54 Paterson Hall

Office Hours: TBA

Email: mariepierlemay@cunet.carleton.ca

I. Course description

Calendar Course Description

Seminar in Ethics or Moral Philosophy. Detailed study of selected issues in ethics or moral philosophy. Prerequisite(s): eligibility for fourth-year standing in a Philosophy Honours program or permission of the Department. Also offered at the graduate level, with different requirements, as PHIL 5350, for which additional credit is precluded. Seminar three hours a week.

Course Description

This course explores contemporary ethical debates and theories on social movements. In a 2016 article published in *Philosophy Compass*, Avery Kolers deplored the lack of attention philosophers have devoted to social movements. Since then, there has unquestionably been a resurgence of writings in ethics and adjacent philosophical fields on normative insights and theories developed from cases of social movements. In this course, we will explore this burgeoning field together. We will examine philosophers and thinkers who develop normative insights and theories from empirical cases. Of course, civil disobedience and violence are on our agenda, but we will also explore the social ontology of groups, the epistemic dimensions of group representation, the ethics of deference, the morality of ecotage, and insights gained from reading Indigenous thinkers on these questions.

II. Learning Outcomes

In addition to gaining familiarity with contemporary debates in the ethics of social movements, this course focuses on developing your writing and speaking skills to express yourself in a cogent and nuanced way. I will first encourage you to come to class prepared and to do your best to contribute to class discussions; acknowledging you do not fully understand a concept, or a theory seen in class can be as valuable as showing a flaw in an author's argument. By orally presenting a reading to the class while providing us questions for the class discussion, you will help us to intellectually orient ourselves for our class.

This course is also designed to help you gain confidence in your ability as a writer through writing two papers. The first paper would be a short essay of a few pages focused on one reading for the class. The second paper is divided in two steps. I will first require you to submit an outline and a bibliography of your paper; you will get feedback on this, and this will help you to write your final paper. I encourage you to discuss the topic of your final paper well in advance with me.

III. Texts

Required Textbook: None. All readings will be electronically available on the course website.

IV. Course calendar

Week and Topic	Date	Readings	Assignments due
1: Course introductions	Tue., Jan. 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kolers, Avery. 2016. "Social Movements." <i>Philosophy Compass</i> 11 (10): 580–90. https://doi.org/10.1111/phc3.12351.	Not Applicable (NA)
2: What is a social movement?	Tue., Jan. 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Anderson, Elizabeth. 2014. "Social Movements, Experiments in Living, and Moral Progress: Case Studies from Britain's Abolition of Slavery."Heydari Fard, Sahar. 2023. "The Transformative Power of Social Movements." <i>Philosophy Compass</i> n/a (n/a): e12951. https://doi.org/10.1111/phc3.12951.	NA
3: Who is Speaking for Whom?	Tue., Jan. 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alcoff, Linda Martin. 1991. "The Problem of Speaking for Others." <i>Cultural Critique</i>, no. 20: 5–32. https://doi.org/10.2307/1354221.Salkin, Wendy. 2022. "Democracy within, Justice without: The Duties of Informal Political Representatives1." <i>Noûs</i> 56 (4): 940–71. https://doi.org/10.1111/nous.12391.	NA
4: Epistemic Dimensions of Social Movements	Tue., Jan. 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Extract from Medina, José. 2023. <i>The Epistemology of Protest: Silencing, Epistemic Activism, and the Communicative Life of Resistance</i>. Studies in Feminist Philosophy. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press.	NA
5: Ethics of Deference	Tue., Feb. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kolers, Avery. 2012. "Dynamics of Solidarity." <i>Journal of Political Philosophy</i> 20 (4): 365–83. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9760.2010.00391.x.Pollock, Darien. 2021. "Political Action, Epistemic Detachment, and the Problem of White-Mindedness." <i>Philosophical Issues</i> 31 (1): 299–314. https://doi.org/10.1111/phis.12194.	NA

Week and Topic	Date	Readings	Assignments due
6: Agonistic Politics	Tue., Feb. 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DuFord, Rochelle. 2022. "Antisocial Solidarities: The Psychic Life of Domination." <i>Solidarity in Conflict: A Democratic Theory</i>. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press. To be determined 	Final paper outline and bibliography (10% of the final grade):
Winter Break	Tue., Feb. 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No class 	NA
7: Resistance to Global Injustices	Tue., Feb. 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extract from Deveaux, Monique. 2021. <i>Poverty, Solidarity, and Poor-Led Social Movements</i>. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. 	NA
8: Civil Disobedience	Tue., Mar. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> King, Martin Luther, Jr. 2018. Letter from Birmingham Jail. Penguin Modern. London, England: Penguin Classics. Delmas, Candice. 2016. "Civil Disobedience." <i>Philosophy Compass</i> 11 (11): 681–91. https://doi.org/10.1111/phc3.12354. 	NA
9: Civil Disobedience	Tue., Mar. 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extract from Pineda, Erin R. 2021. <i>Seeing Like an Activist: Civil Disobedience and the Civil Rights Movement</i>. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press. Celikates, Robin. 2016. "Rethinking Civil Disobedience as a Practice of Contestation—Beyond the Liberal Paradigm." <i>Constellations</i> 23 (1): 37–45. https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8675.12216. 	NA
10: Vandalism and Violence	Tue., Mar. 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pasternak, Avia. 2018. "Political Rioting: A Moral Assessment." <i>Philosophy & Public Affairs</i> 46 (4): 384–418. https://doi.org/10.1111/papa.12132. Lim, Chong-Ming. 2020. "Vandalizing Tainted Commemorations." <i>Philosophy & Public Affairs</i> 48 (2): 185–216. https://doi.org/10.1111/papa.12162. 	NA

Week and Topic	Date	Readings	Assignments due
11: Ecotage	Tue., Mar. 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arridge, Alexander S. 2023. “Should We Blow Up a Pipeline?: Ecotage as Other-Defense.” <i>Environmental Ethics</i>, August. https://doi.org/10.5840/enviroethics202382863. • McLaughlin, Alex. 2023. “Climate Resistance and the Far Future.” <i>Social Theory and Practice</i>, September. https://doi.org/10.5840/soctheorpract2023825204. 	NA
12: Indigenous Resurgence	Tue., Apr. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simpson, Leanne Betasamosake. 2016. “Indigenous Resurgence and Co-Resistance.” <i>Critical Ethnic Studies</i> 2 (2): 19–34. https://doi.org/10.5749/jcritethnstud.2.2.0019. • Allard-Tremblay, Yann. 2022. “Braiding Liberation Discourses: Dialectical, Civic and Disjunctive Views about Resistance and Violence.” <i>Canadian Journal of Political Science/Revue Canadienne de Science Politique</i> 55 (2): 259–78. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0008423922000191. 	
13. Conclusion	Tue., Apr. 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zheng, Robin. 2022. “Reconceptualizing Solidarity as Power from Below.” <i>Philosophical Studies</i>, July. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11098-022-01845-y. 	
Take-home (Final paper)	TBD	Take-home	Final paper due

V. Evaluation:

Students will be assessed on five components: (1) attendance and participation, (2) class presentation (3) short paper, (4) final paper outline and bibliography, and (5) final paper.

Undergraduate students

- Attendance and participation (20% of the final grade): Come to class prepared, having read the texts that will be discussed. Be attentive to what your classmates are saying and

try to advance the discussions accordingly. I will take attendance every class and you are entitled to miss three classes without penalty.

I will grade this according to a point system (max. 20 points). There are three ways you can earn points:

1. Come to office hours. You can earn 2 points by coming to office hours – even if just to say hello. There is no limit on how often you can come to office hours, but you only earn points once!

2. Ask a question or make a comment in class. You will receive 1.5 point for asking or answering a substantive question in class or for making a comment as part of a class discussion. To receive points, hand me a slip of paper (not a full sheet, just a scrap is fine) at the end of a class in which you ask a question or make a comment. Include your full name and a brief cue to remind me about the nature of your comment.

Maximum two per class.

3. Listen and reflect. You can receive 1.5 points for submitting a one or two-paragraph reflection on some aspect of the discussion from the previous class session. These must be typed; you can give them to me at the next class; please include your name and a brief cue regarding the aspect of the discussion that prompted your reflection. These reflections must be thoughtful. (Maximum one per week.)

- Critical discussion in class: (20% of the final grade): Critical discussion of a reading for that day (10–15 minutes). These class presentations will be spread out thorough the semester, and you will sign up for one by the beginning of the second week of the semester. You must circulate 3 to 5 discussion questions to the class by emailing these questions to me by 6 p.m. at the latest the day before your presentation. Being critical does not necessarily mean being “negative.” For example, you can highlight a part of a reading that you think was especially interesting (and explain why), you can contrast a reading with another one, or you can build up from your discussion questions to show some tensions in the reading.
- Midterm paper (20% of the final grade): 1000 words essay.
- Final paper outline and bibliography (10% of the final grade): Before the reading week, you will send me a 300 to 500 words outline. For the outline, I want to know which puzzle, conundrum, question, or tension that will interest you for your final paper.
- Final paper (30% of the final grade): You will write an essay (length TBA) exploring a political or ethical conundrum originating from the course material. In addition to the readings we have seen in the course, I expect you to do research outside of the course materials (at least 3 external sources).

Graduate students

- Attendance and participation (20% of the final grade): Come to class prepared, having read the texts that will be discussed. Be attentive to what your classmates are saying and try to advance the discussions accordingly. I will take attendance every class and you are entitled to miss three classes without penalty.

I will grade this according to a point system (max. 20 points). There are three ways you can earn points:

1. Come to office hours. You can earn 2 points by coming to office hours – even if just to say hello. There is no limit on how often you can come to office hours, but you only earn points once!

2. Ask a question or make a comment in class. You will receive 1.5 point for asking or answering a substantive question in class or for making a comment as part of a

class discussion. To receive points, hand me a slip of paper (not a full sheet, just a scrap is fine) at the end of a class in which you ask a question or make a comment. Include your full name and a brief cue to remind me about the nature of your comment.

Maximum two per class.

3. Listen and reflect. You can receive 1.5 points for submitting a one or two-paragraph reflection on some aspect of the discussion from the previous class session. These must be typed; you can give them to me at the next class; please include your name and a brief cue regarding the aspect of the discussion that prompted your reflection. These reflections must be thoughtful. (Maximum one per week.)

- Critical discussion in class: (20% of the final grade): Critical discussion of a reading for that day (10–15 minutes). These class presentations will be spread out thorough the semester, and you will sign up for one by the beginning of the second week of the semester. You must circulate 3 to 5 discussion questions to the class by emailing these questions to me by 6 p.m. at the latest the day before your presentation. Being critical does not necessarily mean being “negative.” For example, you can highlight a part of a reading that you think was especially interesting (and explain why), you can contrast a reading with another one, or you can build up from your discussion questions to show some tensions in the reading.
- Final paper outline and bibliography (10% of the final grade): Before the reading week, you will send me a 300 to 500 words outline. For the outline, I want to know which puzzle, conundrum, question, or tension that will interest you for your final paper.
- Final paper (50% of the final grade): You will write an essay (length TBA) exploring a political or ethical conundrum originating from the course material. In addition to the readings we have seen in the course, I expect you to do research outside of the course materials (at least 3 external sources).

VI. Course Policies (Including late work)

Unless other arrangements are made, in advance and in writing, with the course instructor, **late assignments for essays** will be penalized by 5% for the first day they are late and then 2% for every subsequent day (including weekends), unless accompanied by documented evidence or a filled [self-declaration form](#).

All assignments should be submitted to me through the Brightspace dropbox. Please submit a file in Word or Rich Text Format (no .pdf files please).

If you **email** me, use your Carleton email address, and write the course code in the subject line. If you haven't received a response within 48 hours (excluding weekends), feel free to send me a quick follow up email.

VII. Statement on Plagiarism

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (CHATGPT, ETC.)

We would discuss this more in class together, but I would encourage you to refrain yourself for using these tools for your work submitted for this class. I want to be able to hear your distinctive voice when I read your essay and these tools will not reproduce your voice.

Using AI tools to generate content for assignments, and presenting it as one's own original work, as well as copying or paraphrasing the content produced by AI tools without proper citations or the instructor's consent, are both considered to be in violation of academic integrity.

Note that I can ask you to submit drafts or answer questions on the writing process if I have suspicions that you did not write what you submitted for this course.

PLAGIARISM

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2023-24)

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:

- 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. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
- Oct. 9 Statutory holiday. University closed.
- Oct. 23-27 Fall Break – no classes.
- Nov. 24 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. 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. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
- Feb. 19 Statutory holiday. University closed.
- Feb. 19-23 Winter Break – no classes.
- Mar. 15 Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter courses.

- Mar. 27 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.
- Mar. 29 Statutory holiday. University closed.
- Apr. 10 Last day of two-term and winter term classes. *Classes follow a Friday schedule.* 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. 11-12 No classes or examinations take place.
- 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.

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