

# PHIL 3320 Contemporary Ethical Theory

FALL 2017

Monday 2:35 – 5:25

Room: TBD

## Instructor

Matthew Scarfone

## Email

matthewscarfone@carleton.ca

## Office Hours

Monday 1:30 in  
TBD Paterson

## Prerequisite

PHIL 2020 or PHIL 2101

## Preclusion

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 to 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

Date	Topic	Reading
Sept. 11	Introduction to ethical theory	Julia Driver <i>Ethics: The Fundamentals</i> (excerpt) Mark Timmons <i>Moral Theory: An Introduction</i> (excerpt)
Sept. 18	Normative concepts	Christine Tappolet "Evaluative vs. Deontic Concepts" Simon Kirchin "Thick and Thin Concepts"
Sept. 25	Consequentialism	Julia Driver <i>Ethics: The Fundamentals</i> (excerpt)
Oct. 2	Consequentialism Midterm paper assigned	David Brink "Some Forms and Limits of Consequentialism"
Oct. 9	No Class - Thanksgiving Break	
Oct. 16	Deontology Midterm paper due in class	Frances Kamm "Nonconsequentialism"
Oct. 23	No Class - Fall Break	
Oct. 30	Deontology	Annette Baier "Discriminate Death-Dealing" Robert Nozick <i>Anarchy, State, Utopia</i> (excerpt)
Nov. 6	Virtue ethics	Julia Annas "Virtue Ethics" Michael Stocker "The Schizophrenia of Modern Ethical Theories"
Nov. 13	Virtue ethics	Rosalind Hursthouse "Are Virtues the Proper Starting Point for Morality?"
Nov. 20	Care ethics	Carol Gilligan <i>In a Different Voice</i> (excerpt) Virginia Held "The Ethics of Care"
Nov. 27	Pragmatism	Hugh LaFollette "Pragmatic Ethics"
Dec. 4	Particularism	Jonathan Dancy "Why Particularism?"
Dec. 8	Relativism Final paper assigned	Gilbert Harman "Moral Relativism"

## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2017-18)

### **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/academicregulationoftheuniversity/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:

**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](mailto: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.
Oct. 9	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 23-27	Fall Break – no classes.
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. <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. 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.
Feb. 19	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 19-23	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 27	Last day for summative or final examinations in Winter term or two-term courses before the official examination period.
Mar. 30	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 11	Last day of two-term and Winter term classes. <b>Classes follow a Friday schedule.</b> 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. 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 <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy">www.carleton.ca/philosophy</a> 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/registrar">www.carleton.ca/registrar</a> 520-3500
Academic Advising Centre:	302 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/academicadvising">www.carleton.ca/academicadvising</a> 520-7850
Writing Services:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/">http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/</a> 520-3822
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735