

Philosophy 2120: Ethics

Professor Patricia Sheridan



Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00-12:00, or by appointment  
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What is morality? What makes an action morally good? What character traits are morally significant? How should we treat other people? Finally, why should we, or do we, do the 'right thing' for others when doing so conflicts with the pursuit of individual happiness? In this course we will consider some of the most influential texts in the history of moral philosophy and the ways in which each philosopher has attempted to answer these questions.

**Required Text:**

*Ethics: selections from classical and contemporary writers*. Ed. Oliver Johnson and Andrews Reath. Thomson-Wadsworth. 10<sup>th</sup> edition.

**Evaluation:**

1 two-page critical summary	15%
1 three-page critical summary	20%
Mid-term	30%
Final exam	35%

*\*This course will be using D2L. Please be sure to check the site throughout the term for important information regarding paper-writing guidelines and due dates, exam formats, and links to course materials.*

**Critical Summaries (15% & 20%):** A critical summary is a method of critical analysis, which requires a precise formulation of the argument of a given piece of text, along with a critical analysis of its relative

strength or weakness. You will be asked to write two critical summaries on an assigned piece of text. Detailed guidelines on writing critical summaries will be handed out in class and made available on D2L.

**Mid-term (30%):** This will be an in-class test (1 hour in length); essay format. Two essay questions will appear on the test and you will be asked to choose and answer only one. This test is cumulative of all material covered up to the date of the mid-term. Date: October 19<sup>th</sup>.

-if you are not able to write the test for medical or compassionate reasons, please come talk to me as early as possible.

**Final exam (35%):** This exam will be 2 hours long (room TBA); essay format. You will be given three essay questions, in class, on the last day of classes and two of them will appear on the final exam. This exam will be cumulative of all material covered during the term. Date: December 13, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

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### E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

### When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement...

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

### Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester Fall 2010 courses, without academic penalty, is **Thursday November 4**.

For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

### Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

### Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

### Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

### Resources

The Undergraduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate programs. It can be found at:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/>