



DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
PHIL*2120 ETHICS
WINTER 2013, TUE. & THU. 2:30-3:50

COURSE OUTLINE

(Please read the outline carefully and hold on to it for future reference)

Dr. Omid Payrow Shabani

Office: McKn 327

Phone: 53201

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Office hours: Tue. & Thu. 1:00-2:00

Course Description:

What is ethics or morality? And why ought we be moral? Since antiquity, these questions have been answered in verity of ways by verity of moral philosophers. In this course the students will be introduced to such a range of ethical theories. We will critically examine some of the major schools in moral philosophy including, ethical subjectivism, cultural relativism, ethical egoism, utilitarianism, deontology, etc. This analysis will be supplemented by a discussion of contemporary ethical issues and controversies such as animal rights, euthanasia, gay rights, etc.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course the students should be able to:

- Have a good grasp of the history and the range of moral theories.
- Be able to identify, critically examine and assess moral controversies.
- Be able to formulate their own thoughts on moral issues based on the analytic and critical skills they acquired throughout the course.

Required Text:

Brouce N. Waller, *Consider Ethics: Theory Readings and contemporary Issues*, Pearson, Longman, 2004

The lectures are aimed at explaining and enhancing the material in the textbook, as such they are not always identical. **Students are responsible for both the lecture material and the material in the textbook.**

Evaluation:

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|--------------------------------|-----|
| 1) Three tests, each worth | 16% |
| 2) Participation | 16% |
| 3) Final Paper (No final exam) | 36% |

-**Tests** will be short tests of five to six questions, covering material presented in class prior to each test.

-**Participation**: starting the second week of classes, the second half of each Thu. class will be devoted to discussing the exercise of the week's reading. I will divide the class into groups and assign an exercise question to them they are given 15 minutes to discuss the question and write an answer on a sheet of paper. The opposite side of the same sheet should include the name of the students in the group, their student number and the number of group. The sheets will be collected and marked as pass/fail. There will be eight occasion for participation and each participation is worth 2% totaling to 16% of the final grade. **You need to have your textbook for this exercise.**

-**Final Paper** is Due on April the 10. Extension will be granted only with a doctor's note. Late papers will lose 2 marks out of 36 each day after the 10th.

Other Rules:

-Because of the large size of the class **email queries won't be answered.**

-If you have any question or concern please come to see me during my office hours—don't stop me before or after the class. If you can't make the stated office hours, please let me know of your availability and I will accommodate you.

-Make up exams will be allowed **only** after an official certification either from a doctor or your program counselor is provided. (See the Addendum to Course Outline at the end of syllabus).

Students should have their textbook with them in every class. If they fail to do so, for every instance they will lose 1% each time they don't have their textbook in class with them.

-This outline is subject to change with sufficient notice.

-**Laptops are not allowed in class.**

-**Cell Phones should be turned off (no texting in class).** If you transgress this rule, you'll be asked to leave the class room.

-**No recording (audio or visual) without the expressed consent of the instructor.**

Class Schedule:

WEEK I.

Tue., Jan. 8: Introduction

Thu., Jan. 10: Intro: Good Reasoning and Ethics (Chapter 1)

WEEK II.

Tue., Jan. 15: What is Morality? Religion and Morality (Chapter 1 cont.)

Thu., Jan. 17: The Questions of Free Will (chapter 13):

WEEK III.

Tue., Jan. 22: Moral responsibility (chapter 14)

Thu., Jan. 24: Morality of Homosexuality (chapter 18)

WEEK IV.

Tue. Jan. 29: **TEST I**

Thu. Jan. 31: Kant's Absolute Morality (Chapter 4)

WEEK V.

Tue., Feb. 5: Problems with Kantian Ethics (chapter 4 con.)

Thu., Feb. 7: Utilitarianism (chapter 5)

WEEK VI.

Tue., Feb. 12: Problems with Utilitarianism and the case of criminal punishment

Thu., Feb 14: Emotion and Morality: Ethical Subjectivism (Chapter 3)

WEEK VII. **WINTER BREAK**

Tue., Feb. 19: No Class

Thu., Feb. 21: No Class

WEEK VIII.

Tue., Feb. 26: Non-objectivism: Emotivism (chapter 10)

Thu., Feb. 28: **TEST II**

WEEK IX.

Tue., Mar. 5: Social Contract Theory (chapter 7)

Thu., Mar. 7: Social Contract Theory con.

WEEK X.

Tue., Mar. 12: Psychological Egoism (chapter 2)

Thu., Mar. 14: Ethical Egoism (chapter 2)

WEEK XI.

Tue., Mar. 19: Pluralism and Pragmatism (chapter 6)

Thu., Mar. 21: Virtue Ethics (chapter 8)

WEEK XII.

Tue., Mar. 26: Ethics of Care (chapter 9)

Thu., Mar. 28: Moral Realism (chapter 11)

WEEK XII

Tue., Apr. 2: Scope of Morality (chapter 12)

Thu., Mar. 4: **TEST III**

Apr. 10: ESSAYS ARE DUE: They are to be handed in to me in my office (MCK 327) from 9:00 to 12:00.

8 Standard Statements of the College of Arts, WINTER, 2013
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 Winter 2013 courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday March 8**. 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.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities that involve, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c14/c14-strightsrespon.shtml>

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/>

If you find yourself in difficulty, contact the undergraduate advisor in your program, or the BA Counselling Office: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/baco/contact.shtml>