Ethics, Knowledge, and Reality (PHIL 1050)

Winter 2018

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Course description

Content

Philosophy is so argumentative that any definition of it is bound to be disputed by philosophers themselves. Roughly though, it is the *argumentative* pursuit of answers to *normative* questions: questions about what *should* be the case (rather than about what *is* the case), or what we *should* do (rather than about what we *actually* do).

The most obvious normative questions are about ethics: questions about what people should do, or about what they owe each other. But behind those questions are questions in "Philosophy of Mind": questions about what it is to be a person, what it is to be a thinking creature.

In this course we will approach the topics of "Ethics, Knowledge, and Reality" by looking in depth at the most prominent and debated answers to such questions. The first half of the course will be about ethics, the second half about philosophy of mind. By approaching these central topics in philosophy, students will be well prepared to pursue other topics as well in later study.

In addition to *learning about* philosophical views we will develop skills in *doing philosophy* ourselves: developing creativity and clarity in the claims and arguments we make. This will be primarily through short writings done weekly for seminars, and discussions of those writings in the seminars. Doing philosophy develops these skills, but they are important no matter what one does in life.

Work

For each lecture you will do some preparatory reading, which (starting January 10) you'll be quizzed on at the start of the lecture. The lectures will elaborate on, and supplement, the reading material and offer an opportunity to ask questions about it. Each week (starting in the second week) you'll contribute a brief piece of writing to your seminar's Graduate Teaching Assistant (using the course website to submit it), and these will form the basis of seminar discussions, to which you will be required to contribute.

There will also be one in-class test and a final examination.

Textbooks

- *The fundamentals of ethics*, fourth edition, by Russ Shafer-Landau.
- *Philosophy of mind: a beginner's guide*, by Ian Ravenscroft.

Lectures

Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:30am–9:20am in Richards Building room 2520.

Seminars

For seminar information see the "contact" page.

Grading

Item	Value

Quizzes (all 21 are graded, best 17 count)	17
Writings	$10 \times 2 = 20$
Seminar participation	18
Test	20
Final exam	25

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Class schedule

Please consult the latest version of this web page, since the schedule may be revised as the course proceeds.

Date, items	Topic	Preparatory reading
January 8	• Course requirements • What is philosophy? Arguments • Ethics; scepticism about it	1–19
January 10 • Quiz 01	• What is it that is "intrinsically good for us"? • Hedonism: it is pleasure	23–43
January 10–12 seminars: introductory discussion; explaining Assignment 1		
January 15 • Quiz 02 • Assignment 1 due	• *Getting what we want* is the intrinsic good • Elaboration of, and objections to, this claim	44–60
January 17 • Quiz 03	• Morality and religion • Morality and "nature"	63–90
January 17–19 seminars: discussing Natural Law theories of morality; discussing ideas for doing Assignment 2.		
January 22 • Quiz 04 • Assignment 2 due	• Psychological Egoism • Ethical Egoism	91–119
January 24 • Quiz 05	• Consequentialism • Utilitarianism	120–43
January 29 • Quiz 06 • Assignment 3 due	• More on Utilitarianism	143–59
January 31 • Quiz 07	• Kantianism • Maxims • The universalizability test	160–74
February 5 • Quiz 08 • Assignment 4 due	• Other Kantian ideas: the Principle of Humanity; autonomy; a good will	175–93
February 7 • Quiz 09	• Ethics as a social contract	194–220
February 12 • Quiz 10 • Assignment 5 due	• Virtue ethics	256–75
February 14 • Quiz 11	• Feminist ethics	276–90
February 26	TEST	
February 28 • Quiz 12	**Philosophy of Mind** • Dualism	9–22

Mar 5 • Quiz 13 • Assignment 6 due	• Behaviorism	25–35
Mar 7 • Quiz 14	• The identity theory of mental states	39–48
Mar 12 • Quiz 15 • Assignment 7 due	• Functionalism	50–62
Mar 14 • Quiz 16	• Eliminativism and fictionalism	64–75
Mar 19 • Quiz 17 • Assignment 8 due	• The computational theory of mind	81–94
Mar 21 • Quiz 18	• Connectionism • Hebbian learning (Donald O. Hebb, a great Canadian!)	97–112
Mar 26 • Quiz 19 • Assignment 9 due	• Physicalism and supervenience	117–22
Mar 28 • Quiz 20	• Content • Bonus reading: an excerpt from *Reason, truth and history* by Hilary Putnam	125–39
April 2 • Quiz 21 • Assignment 10 due	• Mental causation	144–52
April 4	• Recap, exam prep	
April 13	2:30–4:30	**Final exam, location TBA**

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Policies governing this course

Laptop-free lectures

No laptops may be used in the classroom without my permission—if you believe you need to use a laptop please see me to discuss this.

In addition, this course is governed both by College of Arts policies and by my general policies for every course I teach. They are as follows.

College of Arts Policy Statements

Email communication

> As per university regulations, all students are required to check their `<uoguelph.ca>` email account regularly: email 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 email contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.

Drop date

> The last date to drop one-semester Winter 2018 courses, without academic penalty, is *Friday, March 9*. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar.

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.

Accessibility

> The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student. When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required, however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway. Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability. Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance, and not later than the 40th Class Day. For more information see the SAS website.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

> Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities which, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of 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. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor. The Academic Misconduct Policy is [detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar](.).

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

My general policies

If there is a conflict between the following policies and the University's policies on such matters as [students' academic responsibilities](.) and [undergraduate degree regulations and procedures,](.) or the above-quoted College of Arts policies, then those policies prevail.

Office hours

These are for any sort of consultation that you might want: questions about the course material, discussion of your progress in the course, questions about assignments, and so on. You do not need to make an appointment, just come by. If the office hours conflict with your schedule then you can make an appointment with me for a meeting at some other time.

Personal emergencies

Reasonable accommodation will be made for personal emergencies *that are documented*. I know that it can be troublesome to produce such documentation but there is no other way to ensure the fair administration of this provision.

Format of essays

Essays (as opposed to brief writings submitted on the course website) are to be formatted as follows.

- 12-point standard font (e.g. Times Roman), double-spaced

- Citations are to be in the form (Mill 1863, 128), which gives the author's name, date of publication of the work, and page number(s) from the work.

- At the end of your paper list the work(s) you cited, in the appropriate form:

   Journal article:
   [author's last name], [author's first name]. [year of publication]. [title of article (unenclosed in quotation marks)]. [title of journal, italicized] [volume number of journal]: [page numbers of article].

   Book:
   [author's last name], [author's first name]. [title of book (italicized, unenclosed in quotation marks)]. [year of publication]. [location of publisher]: [name of publisher].

- Do not have a title page. Put the title and your name at the top of the first page of the paper.

- Number the pages.

- Staple the paper at the top left corner.

For further details concerning citations, see Kate Turabian's book *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, chapter 8: "Parenthetical references and reference lists."

This page was last updated at 07:45 PM on January 7, 2018 by Mark McCullagh

Resources

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Advice on philosophical class-going, reading, and writing

The Pink Guide to taking philosophy classes

> Written by Helena de Bres, a philosophy professor at Wellesley College.

Guidelines on writing a philosophy paper

> Written by Jim Pryor, a philosophy professor at NYU.

Reference works

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

> First-rate in quality, although the coverage is incomplete—it's a work in progress.

Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy

> A complete, very good encyclopedia. Basically it's the book version plus updates.

Bounce Back program

"First semester of undergrad didn't go as planned? We're here to help." Information on this program

This page was last updated at 08:09 PM on January 7, 2018 by Mark McCullagh

Learning outcomes

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In this course students will begin developing the abilities to:

• Prepare a piece of philosophical writing in which a topic is articulated clearly and a stance on that topic is supported by appropriate and well thought-through reasons. [The writing assignments begin to develop this skill.]

• Deliver an oral presentation on a philosophical topic that is clear, accurate and well-reasoned. [In-seminar discussion begins to develop this skill.]

• Understand, explain and assess major theories in the history of ethical thought, including virtue ethics, utilitarianism, deontology.

• Understand, explain and assess major theories in the philosophy of mind such as dualism, the identity theory, and functionalism.

• Argue successfully for one's own view and be able to identify and critically evaluate patterns of argumentative reasoning in the work of others. [The writing assignments begin to develop this skill.]

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Scores

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Please notify me if you believe your scores are erroneously listed.

As of 8:08 pm Wednesday, February 7

Code name	Part	Q01	Q02	Q03	Q04	Q05	Q06	Q07	Q08	Q09	W01	W02	W03	W04	Grade
afile		1	3	2	2	1	0		1	1	7	8	8.5	7	10
algate		2	3	2	3	2	2	3	3	3	6	10	9		13
amenden		3		2		1	1		1	2	7		7.5	0	6
anlace													0		0
apaid		1	1	2		3	1	3	1	1	8		8		8
avise			3	3	3	3	1	3	3	2	8	8	9		12
ayel	10	1	3	3	3	2	2		3	2	8	9	10		12
bane		1	2	2	3	3	1	2	3	3	8	8	8	8	13
blive		1		2							8		0		3
boot														0	0
bowyer	2.5	3	2	1	0		0				8	8.5	7		7
bracer			1	2									6		2
bren		2	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	3	7	9	8.5	8	14
brouding	8.7	3	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	10	9	9		13
champartie		2	3	2	2	3	1	3	2	2	8	9	8	8	13
cleped	7.5	1	2	2	1	2	2	3	2	1	9	9	8		11
courser		2	1	2	3	2		2	3	2	6	8	0		8
crulle	7.5	1		2	2	2			2	2	7	9	9		9
deemen	7.5	1	2	1	3	1	0	3	2	3	6	9	6		10
diapred									2	1	4		6		3
dight	10	1	1	1	2	2	2		2	3	8	9	10		10
digne			2		1	0	1	1				7	8	8	6
drey			1		0								0		0
envined		2	2	2	0	3		2	3	0	7	6	8	6	10
fain	7.5		2	0	3	3	2				6	10	9		8
farre		3	3	3		1	1		2	2	7		8	0	8
farse													0		0
foin			2		0		1		3	3			0		3
fordo		0			0		1		1	2		8	8		5
forpine		0	0	2	1	2	2	3	1	3	6	6	7.5	7.5	10
forword		2	2	3	3	3	0	3	3	3	9	8	9	8	14
gie		1	2	3	1		1	2	2	2	9	9	0		8
gipciere		3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	3		9	9		12
gobbet	0										0	0	0		0
gree		2	2					0			8	8	8.5	6	7
groyning		3	2	1	2	3	2	2	3	2	8	7	9		11
grudgeth		2	2	1	0	1	0		2	2	8	10	9		9
guise		1	1	2	1	3	2	3	2	2	7	8	8	8	12
haunt													0		0

Word															
hent		3			3	2		3			8	10	7		9
holpen		2	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	7	9	9		10
infortune	10	3	3	2	2	2		3	1	1	10	9	10		11
jape		3	3	2	3	3	1	3	2	3	8	9	9	9	15
leachecraft	7.5	1	1	1	2		2	2	3	3	7	5	10		9
leve	10	1	2		2		1	2	2	3	9	9	9		10
lewed	10	1	0	2	2	3	0	1	3	3	9	7	9		10
lief	8.7	3	3	3		3	2	3	2	2	8	8.5	8		12
loth		1	3	2	3	2	1	3	2	3	8	9	9		12
manhead		2	2	2	2	1	1	2			7	4	8	0	8
manie	5	2		2				2	2		9	7.5	0		6
mart		1	3	3	3		2	3	3	3	7	9	8		12
mew		2		3		3	1	3	3	1	7	9	9	8	12
misbode		2		2	3	2	1	3	1	3	7	8	7	8	12
muchel	8.7	2	2	3	3	3		3	2	3	8	9	9		12
namely	8.7		2		3	2	2		2	2	10	9	10		10
nexte		1		2	3	2	1	3	2	3	7	8	9		10
pace	5	1	2	2			0	2	3	3	7	9	8		9
parlement		3	3	1	2	0	1	2	0	2	9	8	7.5	8.5	11
pight	8.1	1	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	1	10	7	9		12
pitous	5	1	3	2	3	1		2	1	2	8	9	8		10
pouraille		3		3		2	1				7		9	9	8
pummel			1	3	3	3		3			8	10	9		10
redouting	8.7	2	1	3	2	2	0	2	2	3	9	9	10		11
replication		1	0	2	1	3		2	0	1	6	9	7		8
rouketh		2	2	2	2	3	0				8	10	7		9
rout	5		0			2		3	1	1	6	9	8		7
ruthe		3	1	2	3	2		3	2	3	7	9	9		11
sausefleme	10	1	3	1	2		1	2	1	3	9	8	9		10
semicope		0	2	2	2	3	1	3	1	1	7	6	7.5	8	11
sendall		1	3	3		3	1	3	2	2	6.5	8	6	9	12
serie							0		1	1	8	8	8	7	7
shode		2	1	3	2	2	1		1	1		6	7	8	9
sickerly	8.7	3	3	2	2	1	1	3	3	2	10	9	10		12
sparth	7.5	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	7	0	8		10
spicery		3	2	1	1	3	2	3	1	2	7	7	9	9	12
starf		2	3		0			2	1		8	8	7		7
stenten		2	1	2	3			1	2		7	9	0		7
sterve		2	2	2		3		2	2	0	9		8		8
steven	7.5	2	2	2	3	2	1	3	2	3	8	9	10		12
stint		1	3	2	3	3	0	3			9	9	8.5	8.5	12
stith	6.8	2	3	1	3	3	2	3	2	0	9	8	10		12
swink		1	2	1	0		2		1	1	7.5	9	9	0	8
swinken	10	3	3	3		1	2	2	3	1	7	0	6		9
swinker		1	2	2	0	1	1	1	3	3	7	9	8.5	9	11
swoot		2	3	3	3	2	1	3	2	2	8	9	7		12
tabard														0	0
targe		2	2	2	2	1		0	2		7	8	7		8
torettes			2		3			3			8	10	9		8

tretis		3	3	0	3	3	3	3			7	9	8		11
tway	7.5	3	2	2	2	1	1	3	0	2	9	8	7		10
vitaille	8.7		1	0	2		3				0	3	0		3
wanhope		2					0				9		8	0	4
warray	5	1	0	0	0	1			3	3	0	0	7		4
webbe		2	3	2			0		2	2	7	8		6	8
wex	6.8	2	3	1	3	3	2	2	2	3	0	5	8		10
whelkes			1	3							6		6	0	4
wight		2									7	7		7	5
wirch		2	0	1	0	2	0	3	2	1	8	7	7	8.5	10
wiste		3				1	1		2	3	9	6			6
wonning	2.5	3	3								9	0	9		6
wood		3	1	2				3	1	3	8	7		5	8
wreak		3			1				2	2	9			6.5	6
Averages:	7.6	1.9	2.2	2.0	2.4	2.2	1.5	2.6	2.0	2.2	7.7	8.2	8.2	7.7	9.2

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Contact information

Mark McCullagh, Associate Professor

Mail

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Phone

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Email

mmcculla@uoguelph.ca

Web

www.markmccullagh.ca

Office hours

Mondays 11:00 am–noon, Tuesdays 1:00–2:00 pm (or by appointment—email me) in MacKinnon 347

Graduate Teaching Assistants

MacKinnon Building has two wings, accessible to each other only from the first floor, and the room numbers don't indicate which of these wings a room is in. General rule: seminars meet in the classroom wing; faculty and graduate student offices are in the office wing.

Name/email	Section	Meetings
Joshua Barden bardenj@uoguelph.ca	PHIL 1050 0101	Wed 3:30–4:20 MacKinnon 119
Office hour: Fridays 11:30–12:30 pm in MacKinnon 333	PHIL 1050 0102	Wed 4:30–5:20 MacKinnon 119
Joshua Grant-Young jgrantyo@uoguelph.ca	PHIL 1050 0104	Thur 10:30–11:20 Graham Hall 2302
Office hour: Tuesdays 3:00–4:00 pm in MacKinnon 361	PHIL 1050 0107	Thur 1:30–2:20 Graham Hall 2302
Ilknur Ozalli iozalli@uoguelph.ca	PHIL 1050 0105	Thu 11:30–12:20 MacKinnon 119
Office hour: Wednesdays 11:30–12:30 in MacKinnon 360	PHIL 1050 0106	Thu 12:30–1:20 MacKinnon 119

Submit Writing Assignment W04

- Details of the assignment will be discussed in lecture or seminar.

- Limit: 250 words.

- Deadline: 7 am Monday, February 5

The submission process

- Write your submission on your computer *and save it there* in addition to submitting it using this form.

- If you click "Submit this writing" and you don't get a page saying "The following submission was entered" or "The following submission was updated," then *your assignment has not yet been submitted*. Try again until you get a page showing one of those messages.

- You can re-submit your assignment at any time before the deadline; the new submission will replace the previous one in the database.

- That means that you can easily test whether your submission is within the word limit—just submit it, and if it needs trimming, submit it again later.

Formatting tips

In the large box, enter your submission—copy and paste from whatever word processor you use.

- Don't put in any title, header, name etc.

- If you want italics, flank text with asterisks, *like so*.

- If you want a break between paragraphs, leave an empty line between them.

Submission form

Your Guelph student ID (7 digits)

Your code name in this course

Your submission: (exit textbox for word count) — ? words

Submit this writing   Reset