



DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
PHIL*2120 ETHICS
WINTER 2014, Mon., Wed., Fri. 1:30-2:20

COURSE OUTLINE

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

Dr. Omid Payrow Shabani

Office: McKn 327

Phone: 53201

Email: oshabani@uoguelph.ca

Office hours: Mon. & Wed. 11:00-12:00

Course Description:

What is ethics or morality? And why ought we be moral? Since antiquity, these questions have been answered in variety 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, Third edition, 2004.

The lectures are aimed at explaining and enhancing the material in the textbook, as such they might not always be identical. **Students are responsible for both the lecture material and the material in the textbook. The textbook is an important part of the activities for the participation assignment. Not having the textbook may result in poor participation mark.**

Evaluation:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| 1) Five tests, each worth | 10% |
| 2) Participation assignment | 14% |
| 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:** I will divide the class into groups and assign an exercise question to each group. I will give each group a sheet of paper where the students are to provide their group number, the date, their names and student number. On the back of the same sheet there is the question assigned to the group. They are given 30 minutes to discuss the question, and then write an answer. The sheets will be collected and marked as pass/fail. Each participation is worth 2%. You need to take part in seven in order to get the maximum mark of 14% for participation. **Not having your textbook for this exercise impacts your participation mark. This is an in class assignment. If you are not there I cannot give you a make-up.**

-**Final Paper** is due on Thurs. April 10. Extension will be granted to those who provide good reasons for their request. Late papers will lose 2 marks out of 36 each day after the 10th.

Other Rules:

-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.

-If you email me with a question, whose answer is in this outline, you will not hear back from me.

-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. Not having the text book might impact the participation mark.**

-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 against this rule, you'll be asked to leave the class.

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

Class Schedule:

WEEK I.

Mon., Jan. 6: Introduction

Wed., Jan. 8: Intro: Good Reasoning and Ethics (Chapter 1)

Fri., Jan. 10: What is Morality? Religion and Morality (Chapter 1 cont.)

WEEK II.

Mon., Jan. 13: Participation Exercise

Wed., Jan. 15: Scope of Morality (chapter 12)

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

WEEK III.

Mon., Jan. 20: Moral responsibility (chapter 14)

Wed., Jan. 22: **TEST I**

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

WEEK IV.

Mon. Jan. 27: Kant's Absolute Morality (Chapter 4)

Wed. Jan. 29: Problems with Kantian Ethics (chapter 4 con.)

Fri., Jan. 31: Participation Exercise

WEEK V.

Mon., Feb. 3: Utilitarianism (chapter 5)

Wed. Feb. 5: Problems with Utilitarianism and the case of criminal punishment

Fri. Feb. 7: **TEST II**

WEEK VI.

Mon., Feb. 10: Emotion and Morality: Ethical Subjectivism (Chapter 3)

Wed., Feb 12: Non-objectivism: Emotivism (chapter 10)

Fri., Feb. 14: Participation exercise

WEEK VII. Feb. 17-21: **WINTER BREAK**

WEEK VIII.

Mon., Feb. 24: Social Contract Theory (chapter 7)

Wed., Feb. 26: Social Contract Theory con.

Fri., Feb. 28: **TEST III**

WEEK IX.

Mon., Mar. 3: Psychological Egoism (chapter 2)

Wed., Mar. 5: Participation exercise

Fri., Mar. 7: Ethical Egoism (chapter 2)

WEEK X.

Mon., Mar. 10: Pluralism and Pragmatism (chapter 6)

Wed., Mar. 12: Virtue Ethics (chapter 8)

Fri., Mar. 14: participation exercise

WEEK XI.

Mon., Mar. 17: **TEST IV**

Wed., Mar. 19: Ethics of Care (chapter 9)

Fri., Mar. 21: Participation exercise

WEEK XII.

Mon., Mar. 24: Moral Realism (chapter 11)

Wed., Mar. 26: Participation exercise

Fri., Mar. 28: Death Penalty (chapter 15)

Week XIII

Mon. Mar. 31: Can Terrorism Ever be Justified? (chapter 20)

Wed. Apr. 2: Participation exercise

Fri. Apr. 4: **TEST V**

Apr. 10: ESSAYS ARE DUE: They are to be handed in to me in my office (MCK 327) from 9:00 to 12:00. Secretaries in the office won't take your paper if you are late. Please don't drop your essay under the door of my office as it might be taken by the cleaning staff.

8 Standard Statements of the College of Arts Winter 2014

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 **March 7, 2014**. 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 which, 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 Counseling Office: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/baco/contact.shtml>