

## **Social and Political Issues**

PHIL\*1010-2 Winter 2011

Dr. B.P. Wetstein

Department of Philosophy, University of Guelph

MacKinnon 352, Ext. 53217, [bwetstei@uoguelph.ca](mailto:bwetstei@uoguelph.ca)

Office Hours: Tues, Thurs, 1:30-3:00 and by appointment

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

In gentler times, moral education was an integral part of all levels of study. In our age of specialization and plurality, it has become unfashionable—even offensive---to speak in terms of "Moral Education". In Social and Political Issues we will explore the possibility that morals can be identified, valued, and evolved. While there is no specific moral agenda for our inquiry, we will journey together and explore issues that are current and relevant to our past, present and future. While the course begins with some fairly practical matters, such as technical vocabulary and techniques of philosophic inquiry, these preliminaries will quickly give way to a sustained inquiry into some of the most pressing---and interesting--- questions of our time.

#### **REQUIRED TEXT:**

James E. White, Contemporary Moral Problems, Tenth Edition

#### **SCHEDULE OF READINGS:**

A schedule of required readings from the text will be posted after the Second week of classes, and updated via Course Link when required.

#### **COURSE EVALUATION:**

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Assignment 1 1000 words, due mid-February              | 25% |
| Assignment 2 1500 words, due mid-March                 | 35% |
| Final Examination Mon 08:30 AM - 10:30 AM (2011/04/11) | 40% |

## **SEVEN STANDARD STATEMENTS – WINTER '11**

### **E-mail 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 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 '11** courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday March 11<sup>th</sup>**. 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/>