



## PHIL\*6230 Ethics

Fall 2020

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - September 11, 2020

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## 1 Course Details

### 1.1 Calendar Description

A critical examination of some selected contemporary works or problems in ethical theory.

### 1.2 Course Description

**This seminar takes up a wide range of questions in ethics, social philosophy, and political philosophy connected to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our seminar won't be a narrow class in medical ethics, though we will talk about triage, who gets treatment, and why. But we won't only talk about the clinical side of treating COVID-19. Instead, we'll take up a range of topics in ethics and political philosophy raised by the global pandemic.**

**Topics include the limits of justifiable state power and stay at home orders, justice and the funding of health care, basic minimum income, harm reduction, vaccination and trust in public health, the nature of epidemiological expertise,**

**old age and care homes, intergenerational justice, racism, disability and vulnerability, collective responsibility, the just division of work in the home, city design and access to green space, immunity passports, privacy and tracking apps, climate change, the environment, and the treatment of non-human animals.**

**This grad seminar presumes some background in ethics and political philosophy. I'm also going to be inviting guests to our class to join us in conversation. Sometimes this will be the authors of the pieces we're reading. Other guests will be philosophers interested in the topic that week.**

**That's the content of the class but there are also things worth knowing about the format of this seminar and how you'll be evaluated. In addition to exploring topics related to the pandemic and examining them through the lens of various philosophical theories about ethics, we will also be learning some skills together as we conduct our seminar online. We're going to start with powerpoint/video introductions uploaded to Teams. During the term we'll all be recording video presentations of the week's readings. On your week you'll be responsible for posting a video presentation. Other weeks, you'll be responsible for watching the video presentation in advance. Each week you'll also post a discussion question for conversation and we'll start our class with those questions.**

**Recommended summer reading: Songs for the End of the World by Saleema Nawaz | Penguin, 2020 (to be published in August, kindle version available now)**

**And have a listen to Tapestry, <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/tapestry/navigating-the-moral-maze-of-the-pandemic-music-for-the-soul-1.5628445/how-to-ethically-navigate-the-pandemic-s-new-normal-as-restrictions-begin-to-lift-1.5628453?fbclid=IwAR1rIMp5KW8SfpV3Px-aMedvj4wZxfgqoqDP0lckVWhiKNPQtiPZB-if818>**

**Introduction, 5%**

**Weekly discussion questions, 10 x 2%=20%**

**Seminar presentation, 25%**

**Final paper, 50%**

### **1.3 Timetable**

We are meeting on Teams Wed 6-8 pm.

### **1.4 Final Exam**

There is no final exam

## **2 Instructional Support**

## **3 Learning Resources**

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## **4 Learning Outcomes**

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## **5 Teaching and Learning Activities**

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## **6 Assessments**

### **6.1 Marking Schemes & Distributions**

**Introduction, 5%**

**Weekly discussion questions, 10 x 2%=20%**

**Seminar presentation, 25%**

**Final paper, 50%**

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## **7 University Statements**

### **7.1 Email Communication**

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

### **7.2 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. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

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

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

### 7.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

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

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

### 7.4 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.

### 7.5 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 Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website  
<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

## 7.6 Academic Integrity

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 encourages academic integrity. 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.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

## 7.7 Recording of Materials

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

## 7.8 Resources

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

Academic Calendars  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>

## **7.9 Disclaimer**

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

## **7.10 Illness**

The University will not normally require verification of illness (doctor's notes) for fall 2020 or winter 2021 semester courses. However, requests for Academic Consideration may still require medical documentation as appropriate.

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