PHIL 347 L01
Contemporary Moral Problems
Fall 2021
Tuesday/Thursday 9:30am – 10:45am, SA 119

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Name: Dr. Shelley Smith
Email: sasmi@ucalgary.ca
Office: Social Sciences - SS1234
Office Hours: Zoom/telephone meetings by request

COURSE INFORMATION
A critical examination of some central moral problems with emphasis on understanding the nature of the problems and identifying alternative reasoned responses. By the end of the course students will understand the basics of several moral theories and be able to apply them in identifying and critically evaluating conflicts in moral consideration between individuals, and towards animals and the environment. This course will include discussion of controversial topics and sensitive issues.

PREREQUISITE(S)
There are no prerequisites for this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES
- Broad knowledge of contemporary philosophical issues, problems, and views;
- Basic understanding of major ethical theories;
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex texts and arguments;
- Ability to write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions; and
- Ability to engage in constructive and respectful dialogue.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK
Required text (available in the bookstore): *The Ethical Life: Fundamental Readings in Ethics and Moral Problems* (5th Edition) Russ Shafer-Landau (editor), Oxford University Press. (2020) ISBN-13: 9780190058241
An e-book is available for rental: e-isbn: 9780190058258

Additional readings may be posted to D2L.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Course Assessment
All course components are to be submitted through the appropriate D2L dropbox prior to the due date/time. It is the student's responsibility to ensure timely and successful submissions.

- **Quiz (at home):** posted to D2L Wednesday, October 13th and due Friday, October 15th at 11:30pm. Worth 10%
- **Three short critical essays 800 – 1,000 words each (approximately 3-4 pages double-spaced):**
  - **Essay 1 (people):** due Monday, November 1st at 11:30pm. Worth 30%
  - **Essay 2 (animals):** due Monday, November 22nd at 11:30pm. Worth 30%
  - **Essay 3 (the environment):** due Friday, December 10th at 11:30pm. Worth 30%

There will not be a final exam for this course.

A passing grade on any particular component of the course is NOT essential for passing this course as a whole.

Late submissions will be accepted with appropriate documentation and prior arrangement with the instructor. I know that we remain in trying times, and I will work with you as circumstances require, but you must contact me **prior to** due dates to agree an extension.

If no arrangements are agreed prior to the due date, a late penalty of 1/3 letter grade a day will apply (i.e. an 'A' assignment a day late will be given an 'A-', two days late a 'B+', etc.) to a maximum of 5 days late.

Quiz (10%)
The quiz is an individual assessment to be completed at home and are not timed. It will be posted to D2L at 8:00am on Wednesday, October 13th, and due via D2L dropbox on Friday, October 15th at 11:30pm. The format of the quiz will comprise a variety of question types and may include: true/false, multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer. A detailed breakdown of the test format will be posted to D2L the week prior to the quiz.

Critical Essays (30% each)
The primary course assessment comprises three short critical essays between 800-1,000 words in length (approximately 3-4 pages double-spaced), one for each major category of moral duties we study in class (people, animals, and the environment). You will choose a specific issue/conflict from those discussed in class and critically evaluate the issue, defending a clearly stated position with reasonable supporting arguments (and cited where required). Further guidelines will be provided in class and posted to D2L.

Letter grades reflect the following standards, as outlined in the UCalgary Academic Calendar:
A: Excellent – superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
B: Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
C: Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject matter.
D: Minimal pass – marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent course in the same subject.
F: Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

The quality of writing WILL be a component in grading.

In all written work, proper and complete citations are extremely important. See section below "Academic Misconduct/Honesty".

Grading Scale:

A+ 96-100	B+ 80-84.99	C+ 65-69.99	D+ 50-54.99
A 90-95.99	B 75-79.99	C 60-64.99	D 45-49.99
A- 85-89.99	B- 70-74.99	C- 55-59.99	F 0-44.99

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Academic Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. The student accommodation policy can be found at ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Accommodation-Policy.pdf.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf. Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

Absence or Missed Course Assessments

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.

Student Support and Resources Full details and information about the following resources can be found at ucalgary.ca/current-students/student-services

· Wellness and Mental Health Resources

· Student Success Centre

· Student Ombuds Office

· Student Union (SU) Information

· Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information

· Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

· Safewalk

Academic Advising

If you are a student in the Faculty of Arts, you can speak to an academic advisor in the Arts Students' Centre about course planning, course selection, registration, program progression and more. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising

for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit arts.ucalgary.ca/philosophy. Further academic guidance is available by contacting Jeremy Fantl (Undergraduate Program Director jfantl@ucalgary.ca) or David Dick (Honours Advisor dgdick@ucalgary.ca). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Courtenay Canivet (Undergraduate Program Administrator phildept@ucalgary.ca)

Writing Assessment and Support

The assessment of all written assignments—and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses—is based in part on writing skills. This includes correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.), as well as general clarity and organization. Research papers must include a thorough and accurate citation of sources. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services for assistance. For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success.

Required Technology

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote, and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

• A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;

• A current and updated web browser;

• Webcam (built-in or external);

• Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;

• Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;

• Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Responsible Use of D2L

Important information and communication about this course will be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it

for how-to information and technical assistance.

All users of D2L are bound by the guidelines on the responsible use of D2L posted here: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/commitment-to-the-responsible-use-of-d2l/. The instructor may establish additional specific course policies for D2L, Zoom, and any other technologies used to support remote

learning. Instructional materials, including audio or video recordings of lectures, may not be posted outside of the course D2L site. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

Media Recording Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

Academic Misconduct/Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which will be an F on the assignment or an F in the course, and possibly a disciplinary sanction such as probation, suspension, or expulsion. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about referencing, please consult your instructor.

University Policies The Instructor Intellectual Property Policy is available at ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Intellectual-Property-Policy.pdf

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy. The instructor (or TA) must return graded assignments directly to the student UNLESS written permission to do otherwise has been provided.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.p