



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 347 Lec 20 – Contemporary Moral Problems

Spring 2012

Lectures: MW 12:00-14:45 (ST126)

Course Outline

Instructor: Greg Janzen
Email: gajanzen@ucalgary.ca
Phone: 220-3163

Office: SS1220
Office Hour: M 1500-1600

Course Description

This course explores a range of topics of current moral and social significance. We will begin by taking a brief look at ethical theory, which will provide a framework within which to later analyze these controversies. Topics we will address include euthanasia, famine relief, abortion, animal welfare, and human cloning. The course has two principal aims: (1) to help students become conversant with the contemporary philosophical literature on some central issues in applied ethics, and (2) to equip students with some techniques for the critical analysis of these issues.

Text

The required text for the course is *Questions of Life and Death: Readings in Practical Ethics*, ed. C. Morris (OUP). Most of the readings for the course can be found in this text. Some additional required readings (or links to) will be made available on Blackboard.

Evaluation

There will be a midterm exam worth 30% of the final grade, a term paper worth 30% (5-6 pages, double spaced, 12 point font), and a take-home final exam worth 40%.

To ensure fairness to those who submit their essays on time, late submissions will be penalized two marks for each late day, unless some university recognized ground for delay (e.g., illness, bereavement) is provided. The time between Friday and Monday counts as one day. *Assignments will not be accepted via email (or otherwise electronically) or under my office door under any circumstances. For an assignment to be considered on time, I have to receive a hard copy, either in class or in the designated assignment drop slot in the Philosophy Department (12th floor, SS), by 4pm on the day its due.*

Grading assignments is more of an art than a science, but as a rough guide the essays will be graded according to the following criteria: (1) degree of understanding of the material; (2) quality of philosophical argument; and (3) clarity of expression.

The following conversion table will be used to calculate final letter grades:

< 50%	F	60-63	C-	70-74	B-	86-91	A-
50-54	D	64-66	C	75-79	B	92-96	A
55-59	D+	67-69	C+	80-85	B+	97-100	A+

Assignment Schedule

Midterm Exam: Wednesday, May 30
Essay: Monday, June 18
Final Exam: Wednesday, June 27

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as **an extremely serious academic offence**, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.