



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 347 Lec 20
"Contemporary Moral Problems"
Spring Term 2013
Lectures: MW 12:00-14:45 (SA245)
Course Outline

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Office: SS1206
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 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 *Contemporary Moral Problems*, ed. J. E. White (Wadsworth). 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

The final grade will be determined by a midterm in-class exam worth 30% (**given on Monday, June 3**), a term paper (5-6 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font) worth 30% (**due on Monday, June 24**), and a take home final exam worth 40% (**due on Tuesday, July 2**). Accordingly, writing and the grading thereof will be a factor in evaluation. Writing should be clear, coherent, and succinct. There is no Registrar-scheduled final exam and there is no particular assignment that you have to pass to pass the course.

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. This policy does not apply to the final exam. Late final exams will not be accepted unless a university recognized ground for delay is provided. Note: a busy schedule, vacation, and employment are not university recognized grounds for delay. So, for example, if you are going on holiday this spring and, for that reason, will be unable to submit your essay on time, you will receive a grade of zero on that assignment. *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+

Academic Honesty

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, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. 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 correct referencing, consult your instructor.

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 the DRC Office at 403-220-8237. 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.

Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/online-services/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQs about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>.

Student Advising and Information Resources

- General Academic Concerns – Have a question but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts' Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undersgraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns.
- **Program Planning** – For assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation, contact the Student Success Centre at 403-220-5881 or visit it on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- **Advice on Philosophy Courses** - You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy's website <http://phil.ucalgary.ca> or contact one of Philosophy's current Undergraduate Advisors (see below)
- **Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers** – If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, contact the instructor of the course.

Protection of Privacy and Return of Student Work

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor.

Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representatives

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial, and confidential support for students who require assistance or advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. See www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds for more information. The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at arts1@ucalgary.ca.

Safewalk

Call 403-220-5333 (24/7/365) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and the LRT station or use a Campus Help Phone.

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

The Department of Philosophy is located on the 12th floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at www.phil.ucalgary.ca

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR SPRING 2013:

Ann Levey (levey@ucalgary.ca)
Jeremy Fantl (jfantl@ucalgary.ca)
Lorraine Markotic (lmarkoti@ucalgary.ca)

For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact Merlette Schnell (schnell@ucalgary.ca)