

**The University of Calgary**  
**Department of Philosophy**  
**Philosophy 347 Lecture 02**  
**Contemporary Moral Problems**  
**Winter 2009 –E. Brake**

**Instructor:** Elizabeth Brake  
**Office:** 1220 Social Sciences  
**Office hours:** Wednesday 11-1 p.m.  
**Phone:** 220-3163  
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**Lectures:** Tuesday, Thursday 11:00-12:15 p.m., Social Sciences 541

**Text:** David Boonin and Graham Oddie, eds., *What's Wrong?* (Oxford)

**Course description:**

This is a course in applied ethics. We will consider topics such as killing in war, abortion, animal rights, the family, same-sex marriage, racism, redistributive taxation, and famine relief. The course will emphasize the use of philosophical reasoning and argumentation in approaching such issues.

**Assessment:**

<b><i>Weight</i></b>	<b><i>Assignment</i></b>	<b><i>Due date</i></b>
15% each	2 argument analyses	2/3, 3/31
30%	Mid-term	March 5
10%	In-class final	April 16
30%	Final paper	April 20

There will be no Registrar-scheduled final exam.

To pass the class, you must complete all assignments. Detailed instructions will be given in advance of each assignment.

*Late work* will be penalised **3 points** a day, unless there is a documented excuse such as illness, a court date, or serious family problems.

Assignments handed in outside class must be placed in **the box on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of Social Sciences**. Do not e-mail assignments.

*Plagiarism* will not be tolerated. Any instance thereof – downloading papers from the Internet, copying or paraphrasing material from a book, web-site, or a fellow student – will be reported to the Faculty of Humanities and I will assign an F for the course or the assignment.

As stated in the University Calendar, letter grades reflect the following standards:

- 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 courses in the same subject.
- F: Fail — unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

I will use the following scale:

A+	97-100	A	93-96	A-	90-92
B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D+	67-69	D	60-66		
F	59 and below				

There is a Blackboard site for this course. Log in at <<http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>> using your U of C e-mail username and password. I will use Blackboard

- to communicate grades
- to make announcements (e.g., in case of emergency cancellation or to let you know that your grades are available)
- to post course documents (this outline, assignments, and handouts)

I will accommodate students with disabilities. If you need accommodations, you may wish to contact the *Disability Resource Centre* (220-8237).

**Reading schedule:**

This is a rough guide. Specific page numbers will be given out in class.

**Jan 13, 15**     **Argumentation – ‘Introduction’**

**Jan 20, 22**     **Killing in war - Chapter 1**

**Jan 27, 29**     **Euthanasia - Chapter 2**

**Feb 3, 5**        **Abortion - Chapter 3**                             **ARGUMENT ANALYSIS 2/3**

**Feb 10, 12**     **Morality and the family – Chapters 12 and 13**

**Feb 17, 19**     **READING WEEK – NO CLASS**

**Feb 24, 26**     **Same-sex marriage and polygamy – Chapter 14**  
**Mar 3**

**MID-TERM 3/5**

**Mar 10, 12**     **Reparations for racial injustice - Chapter 16**

**Mar 17, 19**     **Racial profiling - Chapter 18**

**Mar 24, 26**     **Investing in immoral corporations – Chapter 19**

**Mar 31, Ap 2**   **Famine relief – Chapter 23**                             **ARGUMENT ANALYSIS 3/31**

**April 7, 9**       **Redistributive taxation - Chapter 24**

**April 24**        **The ethics of punishment – Chapter 26**

**April 16**        **IN-CLASS FINAL**

## **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 is an extremely serious offence. 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, please 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.

## **STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVE**

The Humanities Representative is Daniel Pagan, MSC 251, [humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca) or 220-3913.