



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**Phil 347 Lec 01**  
**“Contemporary Moral Problems”**

**Winter Term 2017**  
**Course Outline**

**Lectures: MWF 2-3 pm, MS 319**

**Instructor: Ann Levey**  
**Office: SS 1230**  
**Office Phone: 403-220-5536**  
**Email: [levey@ucalgary.ca](mailto:levey@ucalgary.ca)**  
**Office Hours: M 3-4:30**

**Course Description**

This course will cover the following disputed ethical issues: genetic enhancement; euthanasia and assisted suicide; hunger and poverty; and ethical treatment of animals; These issues have been selected to illustrate various moral considerations including the value of life, our relations to distant others and the scope of our moral obligations. By looking at disputed ethical issues the aim is to learn more about moral considerations as well as to learn how to formulate and evaluate moral positions about ethical issues

**This course has no pre-requisites**

**Course Learning Outcomes**

- Understand and explain basic moral concepts
- Recognize and explain facts and values appealed to in arguments about disputed ethical issues
- Recognize and explain moral frameworks appealed to in arguments about disputed ethical issues
- Develop a sensitivity towards and appreciation of some contested moral issues.
- Engage in oral discussion of contested ethical issues
- Evaluate and construct philosophical arguments about disputed ethical issues.

**Required Texts**

*Disputed Moral Issues*, 4th edition. Edited by Mark Timmins. Oxford University Press, 2016.  
In addition, material will be posted to D2L

**Course Assessment**

There will be four types of assignments. How many you complete with a passing grade determines your grade for the course.

Participation: participation requires that you attend class, that you participate in group discussions, that you take your turn conveying group discussion results to the class and that you contribute to general class discussions. A detailed specification for participation will be posted to D2L in the first week of classes.

Two in-class tests: these will test basic understanding of key concepts and moral problems. To pass a test requires a grade of 60%. Dates: February 27 and April 12

Three reflective-engagement assignments: These will require an activity such as writing a personal directive, taking up the Oxfam Hunger challenge, a group poster on animals. Due dates: February 3, March 3, March 31. To be handed in during class or in the drop box in the philosophy department prior to 4 pm.

Three philosophical argument assignments: These will require you to read a philosophical text and articulate philosophical arguments. The assignments are sequenced in difficulty hence you may not receive credit for the second assignment until you have passed the first and you may not receive credit for the third assignment until you have passed the second. Due dates: January 27 or February 17; March 27; April 12. To be handed in during class or in the drop box in the philosophy department prior to 4 pm.

There will be no Registrar-scheduled final

#### Late Policy:

Missed exams or late assignments will be accepted only with adequate reason such as medical or family emergencies, emotional traumas etc. It is the student's responsibility to contact me, in advance where possible, about missed tests or deadlines. In some cases an alternative assignment will be given where a make-up of the original is not feasible/useful.

#### Grades:

This class will use specification grading, which means that your grade will be based on the number of assignments that you pass. To pass an assignment you must meet the specifications for that assignment. Students who fail an assignment may redo it once (or do an alternative assignment where re-doing the same assignment is not possible).

All levels require participation. Participation points will be assigned. You must receive 8 points to pass. If a student receives fewer than 8 points, grade will be lowered. For example, a student who completed all the B requirements but gets only 6 or 6 participation points would receive a B-. There will also be a couple of opportunities during the semester for extra participation points. Students who receive 2 extra participation points will have their grades raised. For example a student who completed all the requirements for a B and who received 10 participation points would receive a B+.

D: Pass one exam + pass one other assignment + participation

C: Pass one exam + one reflective-engagement assignment + pass two other assignments + participation.

B: Pass one exam + one reflective engagement assignment + the first philosophical argument assignment + pass three other assignments + participation points

A: Pass all assignments + participation

### **IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

#### **Academic Honesty**

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense, 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**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For more information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>. Students who require accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. The full policy on student accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf)

### **D2L Help**

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/services/d2l> for help.

### **General Academic Concerns and Program Planning**

Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS102, call 403-220-3580, or email [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca). Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns

### **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 Undergraduate Advisors. Jeremy Fantl ([jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)), Reid Buchanan ([buchanar@ucalgary.ca](mailto:buchanar@ucalgary.ca)), Megan Delehanty ([mdelehan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mdelehan@ucalgary.ca)).

### **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, email the Department Manager, Merlette Schnell ([schnell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:schnell@ucalgary.ca)). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

### **Writing**

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit [www.ucalgary.ca/ssc](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc).

### **Protection of Privacy**

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 or teaching assistant.

### **Internet and Electronic Communication Devices**

The instructor reserves the right to establish course policies regarding the use of devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartbooks. If allowed, these devices must be used exclusively for instructional purposes and must not cause disruption to the instructor or to fellow students. Cell phones and paging devices should be set to silent mode during lectures. Audio or video recording of lectures is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy

### **Emergency Evacuation:**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>. Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

### **Other Helpful Contacts**

- Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.
- Faculty of Arts Student Representatives: 403-220-6552, [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).
- Student Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>