



**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

Philosophy 451 Lec 01 – Contemporary Ethical Theories

Winter 2012

Instructor: Greg Janzen
Office: SS1220
Office Hour: M 12:00-13:00

Email: gajanzen@ucalgary.ca
Phone: 220-3163
Lectures: MWF 11:00-11:50 (SS541)

Course Description

This course examines some central themes and problems in twentieth century moral theory. Although it is impossible to draw a sharp distinction between normative ethics and meta-ethics, the course is roughly divided along these lines. We will begin by surveying the twentieth century incarnations of a range of competing normative ethical theories, such as utilitarianism and deontology. We will then consider the early and mid-century meta-ethical debate between proponents and opponents of emotivism and error theory, which prefigured the current debate between realists and anti-realists/relativists. We will then examine some additional meta-ethical themes, such as whether moral responsibility is compatible with causal determinism.

Text

The required text for the course is Russ Shafer-Landau (ed.), *Ethical Theory: An Anthology* (Blackwell). Links to additional required readings will be made available on Blackboard.

Evaluation

There will be a mid-term exam worth 25% of the final grade, a term paper worth 35% (recommended length: 6-7pp.), and a take home final exam worth 40%. Assignments will not be accepted via email under any circumstances, and late assignments will not be accepted without medical (or other) documentation.

Grading assignments is more of an art than a science, but as a rough guide the essays and exams 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	92-95 A
55-59 D+	67-69 C+	80-85 B+	96-100 A+

Assignment and Test Schedule

Mid-Term Exam	Given: Monday, February 13
Essay	Due: Monday, March 19
Final Exam	Due: Friday, April 20

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.

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING & STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, phone 403-220-3580 or email at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at 403-220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.
- Email Contact Addresses for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:
arts1@su.ucalgary.ca arts2@su.ucalgary.ca
arts3@su.ucalgary.ca arts4@su.ucalgary.ca