

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
Undergraduate Course Outline 2015-16**

**Philosophy 1305F: Questions of the Day**

**Fall Term 2015  
M, W, 11:30-12:30p.m  
Classroom: P&AB-34**

**Instructor: Dean Proessel  
Office Hours: Monday-12:30-1:30  
dproesse@uwo.ca**

**DESCRIPTION**

In this course we will examine a variety of questions that are of debate in the public forum. Each question will be examined from different perspectives with a view to helping students develop the ability to analyze the question more critically and to develop a more reasoned and informed view of their own. Here are some of the questions we will examine: What is ethical theory? Is abortion immoral? Is society obligated to provide everyone with access to health care regardless of ability to pay? Do we have a moral right to use drugs? What are our duties to animals? What constitutes a just distribution of wealth? Is genetic enhancement morally justifiable? Should there be limits on freedom of speech? Is pornography immoral? What duties do we have towards the environment? What is global economic justice? Do we have a duty to contribute to famine relief?

**TEXTS**

*Contemporary Moral Arguments*, Lewis Vaughn, Oxford University Press, 2013

**OBJECTIVES**

In examining the topics and questions mentioned above, students will be expected to achieve the following course objectives:

- Develop an understanding of ethical theory, in particular utilitarianism, deontology, relativism and human rights.
- Develop the ability to reflect on a variety of current day issues and questions from a critical and moral point of view.
- Develop critical reading and writing skills by preparing two term papers.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to attending class lectures, keeping up with class readings and participating in class discussions, students will be expected to fulfill the following course requirements:

Essay	25%
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Tutorial Participation	15%
Final Exam	35%

## **AUDIT**

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://www.uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.