

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Philosophy
Undergraduate Course Outline 2018-19
Phil 2700F: An Introduction to Ethics and Value Theory

Instructor: Dr. Ryan Robb
Office: Stevenson Hall, room 1144
Office Hours: Tues 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.
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Class Hours: Tues 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.,
Thurs 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
AHB 1R40
course info: OWLSakai

DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the attempts by scholars to understand whether, and the degree to which, humans can be held responsible for their actions. Do humans have ethical duties and responsibilities toward one another or themselves? If so, on what grounds do they have those ethical duties? The primary focus of our survey of the scholarly responses to these questions will consist first in a review of the dominant concerns in meta-ethics, followed by a survey of the most prominent ethical theories.

TEXTS

Wilfrid J. Waluchow, *The Dimensions of Ethics; An Introduction to Ethical Theory*. (Broadview Press, 2003).

H. Geirsson and M.R. Holmgren, *Ethical Theory: A Concise Anthology*. 2nd ed. (Broadview Press, 2010).

OBJECTIVES

This course seeks to achieve one primary goal, namely, to introduce students to and/or build upon a set of standard philosophical skills. Using the readings, lectures, and essay assignments this course will help students to identify what it is that makes the set of reasons that support the conclusions of an argument either convincing or implausible by requiring them to formulate well-reasoned responses.

REQUIREMENTS

15% - In-Class test

60% - two 1250 – 1500 word essays, worth 30% each*

25% - Final Exam (to be scheduled by the registrar during the 2018 mid-year examination period, i.e., December 10th – 21st, 2018)

* Late papers will be assessed a 5% penalty on the first day, and will incur an additional 1% penalty for each subsequent day until the penalty reaches 50%. After that time, a grade of 0 will automatically be recorded. No papers will be accepted after the last day of classes, i.e., Friday December 3rd 2018.

AUDIT

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

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES

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://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.

ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

PLAGIARISM CHECKING

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwoom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.