



COURSE OUTLINE

PHIL 120

INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS

**45 HOURS
3 CREDITS**

PREPARED BY:

DATE:

APPROVED BY:

DATE:

APPROVED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL: (date)

RENEWED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL: (date)

INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS

INSTRUCTOR: Mark Shumelda

OFFICE HOURS: Open-door policy
anytime, but confirm instructor
availability emailing beforehand

OFFICE LOCATION: A2208

CLASSROOM: A2204

E-MAIL: mshumelda@yukoncollege.yk.ca

TIME: 4:00-5:30pm

TELEPHONE: (867) 668-8775

DATES: Mondays and Wednesdays

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to essential topics and questions in moral philosophy: How ought we to live our lives? How are right and wrong determined? Are ethical judgments objective or subjective? Are values universal and absolute or culturally relative? What responsibilities do human beings have to one another, to other species, or to the planet? Students will analyze, interpret and evaluate ideas from major schools of ethical thought—including virtue ethics, deontological ethics, and consequentialism—and practice applying theories about ethics to contemporary moral dilemmas.

PREREQUISITES

None.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

AI	GD GE330 (3)
AU	PHIL 2XX (3)
KWAN	PHIL 1110 (3)

OC	PHIL 1XX (3)
SFU	PHIL 120 (3) - B-Hum
TRU-OL	PHIL 1021 (3)
UBC	PHIL 1st (3)
UCW	PHIL 202 (3)
UFV	PHIL 110 (3)
UNBC	PHIL 1XX (3)
UVIC	PHIL 100 lev (1.5)

For more information on course transferability, please contact the Liberal Arts office.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- analyze, interpret, synthesize, and evaluate ideas associated with major schools of ethical thought and/or key figures in the history of moral philosophy
- explain key terms in the field of moral philosophy, among them egoist ethics, virtue ethics, deontological ethics, consequentialism, categorical imperative, rights theory, utilitarianism, and feminist care ethics
- apply specific ethical theories to contemporary moral problems
- understand the importance of ethical decision-making and action in everyday life and in a range of fields: e.g., politics, economics, research, etc.
- draft, organize, format, revise, and edit university-level essays

COURSE FORMAT

The course will be delivered through a combination of lectures and seminar-style discussions. Students should be prepared to actively participate in group discussions.

ASSESSMENTS

Assignments

The best way to succeed in philosophy is by actually practicing it and thinking critically. The major writing assignments for this course consist of two short essays written in response to the readings (4-6 pages, 12pt. double-spaced), as well as a major research project, due at the end of term. The research project will consist of

both a written component (essay) as well as a presentation component (Powerpoint or poster presentation). Late assignments will be penalized by **5% per day to a maximum of 7 days late**, unless there is a legitimate excuse warranted and approved by the instructor in advance of the deadline.

Note: All of the essay and presentation assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.

Tests/Exam

There are no term tests in this course, however, there will be a three-hour final examination scheduled by the School of Liberal Arts in the period between 7 - 18 December, 2015. The last day of classes is Friday, December 4, 2015.

PLEASE NOTE: The last day to withdraw from courses without academic penalty is Thursday November 12, 2015.

EVALUATION

First Essay:	20%	(Due October 14 in class)
Second Essay:	20%	(Due November 5 in class)
Research Proposal:	5%	(Due November 16 in class)
Research Project:	25%	(Oral and written presentation due last week of class)
Final Examination:	30%	
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Total:	100%	

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS

Lewis Vaughn and Louis P. Pojman, eds. *The Moral Life: An Introductory Reader in Ethics and Literature*, Fifth Edition, Oxford University Press, 2014.

Selected additional readings to be distributed or made available online.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when students present the words of someone else as their own. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of another person's writing, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material. Whenever the words, research or ideas of others are directly quoted or paraphrased, they must be documented according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Resubmitting a paper which has previously

received credit is also considered plagiarism. Students who plagiarize material for assignments will receive a mark of zero (F) on the assignment and may fail the course. Plagiarism may also result in dismissal from a program of study or the College.

YUKON FIRST NATIONS CORE COMPETENCY

Yukon College recognizes that a greater understanding and awareness of Yukon First Nations history, culture and journey towards self-determination will help to build positive relationships among all Yukon citizens. As a result, to graduate from ANY Yukon College program, you will be required to achieve core competency in knowledge of Yukon First Nations. For details, please see www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/yfnccr.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon College Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon College website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student requires an academic accommodation, he/she should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) at (867) 668-8785 or lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca.

THE LORENE ROBERTSON WRITING CENTRE

All students are encouraged to make the Writing Centre a regular part of the writing process for coursework. Located in C2231 (adjacent the College Library), the Writing Centre offers half-hour writing coaching sessions to students of all writing abilities. Coaching sessions are available in person and through distance technologies (e.g., email plus Skype or phone). For further information or to book an appointment, visit the Centre's website: www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/student_info/pages/writing_centre.

TOPIC OUTLINE AND READINGS

Schedule and readings will be revised as we move through the course. Please stay tuned for updates.

ML = page #'s for 5th edition of textbook

(*) = Handout (distributed in class and posted online)

Week	Dates	Topics/Assignments	Readings
1	Sept 9	Introduction	None
PART ONE: META-ETHICS			
2	Sept 14 Sept 16	What's the Purpose of Morality and Why Should I be Moral in the First Place?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plato 'The ring of Gyges' (ML 497-503) ▪ Rand 'Ethical Egoism' (ML 504-512) ▪ Rachels 'Critique of Ethical Egoism' (ML 521-532) ▪ Golding 'Lord of the Flies' (ML 10-30) + Pojman Reflections ▪ Hobbes 'On the State of Nature' (ML 39-48)
3	Sept 21 Sept 23	Good and Evil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nozick 'The Experience Machine' (*) ▪ Melville 'Billy Budd' (ML 53-62) ▪ Dostoevsky 'Why is there Evil?' (ML 63-68) ▪ Styron 'Sophie's Choice' (ML 69-75) ▪ Plato 'The Good and the Allegory of the Cave' (*)
4	Sept 28 Sept 30	Good and Evil (Continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hallie 'From Cruelty to Goodness' (ML 76-88) ▪ Nietzsche 'Beyond Good and Evil' (ML 106-117) ▪ Taylor 'On the Origin of Good and

			<p>Evil' (ML 135-147)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Moral and Nonmoral Values (*)
5	<p>Oct 5</p> <p>Oct 7</p>	<p>Relativism and Objectivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Herodotus 'Custom is King' ML 131 ▪ Benedict 'The Case for Moral Relativism' (ML 132-138) ▪ Rachels 'Why Morality is not Relative' (ML 139-151) ▪ Ibsen 'The Enemy of the People' (ML 166-183)
PART TWO: NORMATIVE ETHICS			
6	<p>Oct 12</p> <p>Oct 14</p>	<p>NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING</p> <p>Utilitarian Ethics</p> <p>FIRST PAPER DUE IN CLASS OCTOBER 14</p>	<p>NO READINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seaman Holmes (ML 194) ▪ Bentham 'Classical Utilitarianism' (ML 195-200) ▪ Mill 'Utilitarianism Refined' (ML 200-204)
7	<p>Oct 19</p> <p>Oct 21</p>	<p>Utilitarian Ethics (continued)</p> <p>Deontological Ethics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Williams 'Against Utilitarianism' (ML 218-229) ▪ Huxley 'Utilitarian Social Engineer and the Savage' (*) ▪ Neilsen (ML 205 optional) ▪ Kant 'The Moral Law' (239-255) ▪ Ross 'Intuitionism' (259-272) ▪ MacIver 'Golden Rule' (ML 273-276)
8	<p>Oct 26</p>	<p>Deontological Ethics (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plato 'Morality and Religion' (ML 294-296) ▪ Nagel 'Moral Luck' (ML 300-310) ▪ Aquinas, 'Natural Law' (Handout)

	Oct 28	Virtue Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MacIntyre 'The Virtues' (ML 330-345) ▪ Aristotle 'Virtue Ethics' (ML 316-329) ▪ Gansberg 'Moral Cowardice' (ML 412-414) ▪ 'The Stoic Catechism' (ML 415-424) ▪ Stockdale 'The World of Epictetus' (ML 425-436)
9	Nov 2 Nov 4	Feminist Ethics and Ethics of Care Freedom and the Meaning of Life RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE NOVEMBER 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jagger 'Feminist Ethics' (443-455) ▪ Held 'Ethics of Care' (477-489) ▪ Voltaire 'The Good Brahmin' (ML 568-570) ▪ Epicurus 'Hedonism' (ML 571-577) ▪ Frankl 'Human Search for Meaning' (ML 592-600) ▪ Camus 'Life is Absurd' (ML 578-585) ▪ Russell 'Suffering' (ML 569-570)
PART THREE: APPLIED ETHICS			
10	Nov 9 Nov 11	Life Issues: Abortion, Euthanasia and Cloning NO CLASS - REMEMBERANCE DAY <i>Note: November 12 is the last day to withdraw without academic penalty</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to Research Ethics' (Handout) ▪ Marquis 'Why Abortion is Immoral' (ML 691) ▪ Warren 'Abortion is Morally Permissible' (ML 727) NO READINGS
11	Nov 16	Bioethics continued SECOND PAPER DUE IN CLASS NOVEMBER 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kass 'Banning Human Cloning' (*) ▪ Brock 'Voluntary Active Euthenasia' (ML 762) ▪ Gay-Williams 'The Wrongfulness of Euthenasia' (781)

	Nov 18		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Possibly Additional readings TBA ▪ TBA
12	Nov 23	Environmental, Economic and Animal Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hardin 'Lifeboat' (ML 855) ▪ Singer 'Animal Liberation' (ML 869-886) ▪ Cohen 'Against Animal Rights' (ML 886-892) ▪ Baxter 'People or Penguins' (ML 919-926)
	Nov 25	Justice, War, Terrorism and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rachels 'Punishment and Desert' (*) ▪ Wright et al. 'Does Punishment Work' (H) ▪ Nathanson 'Can Terrorism be morally justified?' (ML 937 - 953) ▪ Nagel 'What is Wrong with Terrorism' (ML 977-979) ▪ Boyle 'Just War Doctrine' (H)
13	Nov 30	Class Presentations	NONE
	Dec 2	Class Presentations Research Project Due	NONE