

APPLIED ARTS DIVISION
PHIL 120
3 Credit Course
Fall Semester, 2019



COURSE OUTLINE

PHIL 120

INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS

3 CREDITS 3

PREPARED BY: Matthew Cameron, Instructor
APPROVED BY: Andrew Richardson, Dean
enter a date

DATE: June 2, 2019
DATE: Click or tap to

APPROVED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL: Click or tap to enter a date

RENEWED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL: Click or tap to enter a date



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Course Title

| | |
|---|---|
| INSTRUCTOR: Matthew Cameron | OFFICE HOURS: By appointment |
| OFFICE LOCATION: N/A | CLASSROOM: |
| E-MAIL: mcameron@yukoncollege.yk.ca | TIME: 4:00 - 5:30pm |
| TELEPHONE: (867) 668-8770 (Admin Ast.) | DATES: Tues./Thurs. (Sept. 5 - Dec. 5) |

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 330 (3) | AU PHIL 2xx (3) | CAMO PHIL 100 lev (3) |
| KPU PHIL 1110 (3) | OC PHIL 1xx (3) | SFU PHIL 120 (3) - B- Hum |
| TRU-OL PHIL 1021 (3) | TWU PHIL 100 lev (3) | UBC PHIL 1 st (3) |
| UCW PHIL 202 (3) | UFV PHIL 110 (3) | UNBC PHIL 1xx (3) |
| UVIC PHIL 100 lev (1.5) | VIU PHIL 112 (3) | |

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 involve a mixture of lectures and classroom group discussion on pre-assigned material.

ASSESSMENTS:

Attendance & Participation

Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to have read the assigned materials and actively participate in classroom group discussions.

Assignments

Students will be assessed on the basis of short written assignments (5 in total), two essays (1500 words each), the final exam, as well as active participation in classroom group discussions. The first essay is due on **Sunday, October 13, 2019**. The second essay is due on **Sunday, Nov. 17, 2019**.

NOTE: All of the essays and written assignments must be completed in order to pass the course. Late essays will be penalized by **5% per day to a maximum of 7 days**, after which they will not be accepted unless there is a legitimate excuse approved by the instructor in advance of the deadline.

Tests

A three-hour final examination will occur between Dec. 9 and Dec. 20, 2019, as scheduled by the School of Liberal Arts.

Other

EVALUATION:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Written Assignments | 15% |
| Two Essays | 50% (25% each) |
| Participation | 10% |
| Final Exam | 25% |
| Total | 100% |

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS

Selected readings to be made available online (Moodle). See Reading Schedule below.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT CONDUCT

Information on academic standing and student rights and responsibilities can be found in the current Academic Regulations that are posted on the Student Services/ Admissions & Registration web page.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when a student submits work for credit that includes the words, ideas, or data of others, without citing the source from which the material is taken. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of work, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Students may use sources which are public domain or licensed under Creative Commons; however, academic documentation standards must still be followed. Except with explicit permission of the instructor, resubmitting work 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) 456-8629 or lac@yukoncollege.yk.ca.

THE LORENE ROBERTSON WRITING CENTRE

Students are encouraged to make use of the Writing Centre for writing support, especially for planning, writing and editing essays. The Writing Centre is located in the Ayamdigut Campus Library, Room C2211, and can also be accessed online. Writing 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 Writing Centre's website

(http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/student_info/pages/educational_help_centres/lorene_robertson_writing_centre) or email writingcentre@yukoncollege.yk.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE AND READING SCHEDULE

Note: The schedule is subject to revision. All readings are available on Moodle.

| Week | Dates | Topics/Assignments | Readings |
|------|---------|--|---|
| 1 | Sept 5 | Introduction and Course Overview | None |
| 2 | Sept 10 | Meta-Ethics: Why be moral? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plato, “The Immoralist’s Challenge” |
| 2 | Sept 12 | Meta-Ethics: Why be moral? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joel Feinberg, “Psychological Egoism” ▪ James Rachels, “Ethical Egoism” |
| 3 | Sept 17 | Ethical Theory: Consequentialism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jeremy Bentham, “An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation” (ch. 1 and ch. 4) ▪ John Stuart Mill, “Utilitarianism” |
| 3 | Sept 19 | Ethical Theory: Consequentialism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ J.J.C. Smart, “Extreme and Restricted Utilitarianism” ▪ Brad Hooker, “Rule Consequentialism” |
| 3 | Sept 22 | Written Assignment #1 Due: Sunday, Sept. 22 | |
| 4 | Sept 24 | Ethical Theory: Consequentialism (Continued) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Peter Singer, “Famine, Affluence and Morality” ▪ John Harris, “The Survival Lottery” |
| 4 | Sept 26 | Ethical Theory: Consequentialism (Continued) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ W.D. Ross, “What Makes Right Acts Right?” ▪ Bernard Williams, “A Critique of Utilitarianism” |

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| Week | Dates | Topics/Assignments | Readings |
|------|--------|--|--|
| 5 | Oct 1 | Applied Ethics: Animal Ethics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Immanuel Kant, “We Have No Duties to Animals” ▪ Peter Singer, “All Animals are Equal” |
| 5 | Oct 3 | Applied Ethics: Animal Ethics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joel Feinberg, “The Rights of Animals and Unborn Generations” ▪ Film: <i>The Ghosts in Our Machines</i> |
| 5 | Oct 6 | Written Assignment # 2 Due: Sunday, Oct. 6 | |
| 6 | Oct 8 | Ethical Theory: Deontological Ethics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Immanuel Kant, “Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals” |
| 6 | Oct 10 | Ethical Theory: Deontological Ethics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Onora O’Neill, “Kantian Approaches to Some Famine Problems” ▪ Robert Nozick, “The Rationality of Side Constraints” |
| 6 | Oct 13 | FIRST PAPER DUE: SUNDAY, OCT. 13 | |
| 7 | Oct 15 | Ethical Theory: Deontological Ethics (Continued) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alan Gerwith, “The Golden Rule Rationalized” |
| 7 | Oct 17 | Ethical Theory: Deontological Ethics (Continued) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Philippa Foot, “The Problem of Abortion and the Doctrine of the Double Effect” ▪ Judith Jarvis Thomson, “Killing, Letting Die, and the Trolley Problem” |
| 7 | Oct 20 | Written Assignment #3 Due: Sunday, Oct. 20 | |

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| Week | Dates | Topics/Assignments | Readings |
|------|--------|--|--|
| 8 | Oct 22 | Applied Ethics: Environmental Ethics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Garth Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons” ▪ Lynn White Jr., “The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis” |
| 8 | Oct 24 | Applied Ethics: Environmental Ethics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stephen M. Gardiner, “Ethics and Global Climate Change” ▪ The Ethical Implications of Global Climate Change (UNESCO Report; optional reading) |
| 9 | Oct 29 | Ethical Theory: Virtue Ethics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aristotle, “The Nature of Virtue” |
| 9 | Oct 31 | Ethical Theory: Virtue Ethics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Martha Nussbaum, “Non-relative Virtues: An Aristotelian Approach” |
| 9 | Nov. 3 | Written Assignment #4 Due: Sunday, Nov. 3 | |
| 10 | Nov 5 | Ethical Theory: Virtue Ethics (Continued) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Julia Annas, “Being Virtuous and Doing the Right Thing” |
| 10 | Nov 7 | Ethical Theory: Virtue Ethics (Continued) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Julia Annas, “Virtue Ethics and Social Psychology” |
| 11 | Nov 12 | Applied Ethics: Indigenous Rights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ United Nations Declaration of Human Rights ▪ United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples |
| 11 | Nov 14 | Applied Ethics: Indigenous Rights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow |
| 11 | Nov 17 | SECOND PAPER DUE: SUNDAY NOV. 17 | |

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|------|--------|---|--|
| 12 | Nov 19 | Feminist Ethics: The Ethics of Care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Carol Gilligan, “In a Different Voice” (excerpt) |
| 12 | Nov 21 | Feminist Ethics: The Ethics of Care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nell Noddings, “An Ethic of Caring” |
| 12 | Nov 24 | Written Assignment #5 Due: Sunday, Nov. 24 | |
| 13 | Nov 26 | Review (or Make-up Classes if needed) | |
| 13 | Nov 28 | Review (or Make-up Classes if needed) | |
| 14 | Dec 3 | Review (Continued) | |
| 14 | Dec 5 | Review (Continued) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Film: <i>This Changes Everything</i> |

If you have any questions, concerns or feedback about the course, please contact me at mcameron@yukoncollege.yk.ca