

Philosophy 101
INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS IN SOCIETY
Fall Semester 2018

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Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 2.00 - 3.00 pm, Thursdays, 3.30 – 5.00 pm

WELCOME TO THE CLASS! ☺

This course introduces you to philosophy by way of an examination of social issues that are current and controversial. We will study how philosophers bring moral reasoning to bear on these issues, and the variety of positions they take and the justifications that they give. The topics selected are of importance to your lives and future: matters that affect you as a citizen of your community, country, and the world. **The course will require no prior knowledge of moral philosophy, but it does require that you as a student be willing to subject your own assumptions and beliefs to critical examination.**

BE PREPARED to start thinking!

Course Objectives

- To discuss social issues which are controversial and relevant in today's world
- To explain what philosophical questions are about, and the methods that philosophers use to answer these questions
- To learn about the advantages of using reasoned arguments in moral discussion, rather than just having opinions
- To illustrate how reasons can be given to support alternative moral views that conflict with each other, and to attempt to evaluate those reasons

(Keep these objectives in mind: Ask yourself every now and then how you are doing in achieving them!)

What to Expect from this Course

You are expected to prepare for class by doing reading assignments for each session *in advance*, and reflecting on the discussions of previous sessions. In class, I will highlight a few points from the readings for each session, and invite class discussion of the material. You are encouraged to ask questions and to raise critical points in class. You are also encouraged to discuss with fellow students outside the classroom, and post items on the D2L discussion page for the course. Please note that *regular use of D2L* is a component of the work expected of you in this class. You should be logging on a few times a week to participate in the Discussion forum and to read material in the Content section.

If a topic is especially interesting to you, I will be happy to suggest further readings for you to research. However, I have designed the course to ensure that any student, who attends classes consistently, does all essential readings, and submits all assigned work on time, will be likely to get a decent grade. Extra research may be used in contributing to class discussion. *Knowledge of current events from news reports will be especially beneficial for this course.*

I welcome all your comments, suggestions, and questions about the course. If you do not have the opportunity to raise a question in class, or if you have something to discuss with me that may not be of interest to the rest of the class, you are encouraged to see me during my office hours. Please also let me know if you have difficulties with any of the readings. (Bear in mind however that you should first make a serious attempt to do the reading yourself, and listen to what I say in class about it, before you seek my help.)

Required Work and Assessment

Your overall grade for this course is a weighted total comprised of the following components:

Quizzes (20%) will be conducted six times in class (see reading schedule below). Each quiz worth 4% will take the form of 8 multiple-choice questions that will test you on material either from the assigned readings or from discussion in class. Marks from your best 5 quizzes will be recorded, (i.e., you can drop your worst quiz grade!). Missed quizzes cannot be made up later.

The Mid-term Exam (20%) and Final Exam (40%) are blue-book in class exams that comprise of short-essay questions.

'Reaction Papers' (20%) are required twice during the semester, the first due before the mid-term exam and the second due before the final exam. Each paper worth 10% will be assigned on one of the outside news articles available on D2L. The two papers will be on different topics. The requirement is for you to submit a typed 2-page report that demonstrates to me *how your study of philosophy on the topic(s) has enabled you to evaluate the view(s) presented in the article.*

Class Participation involves regular contributions to class discussion as well as postings on the course D2L website. Participation during each class and contributions to D2L will be noted. Although there is no grade for class participation, it will be taken into account to adjust your final grade if you are on the borderline between grades.

Regular class attendance is essential for doing well in this course. *You should not be surprised if you have difficulty doing your readings and completing required work if you miss class too often!* I will excuse absences on the basis of illness, family tragedy, or other circumstances at my discretion, and I should be notified within 3 days of your absence. An unexcused absence from class may incur a loss of marks if there is a quiz or exam on that day. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out from classmates (not from me) what was done in class.

Important Note: You are expected to earn your grade by doing all of the required work. *Sorry: You should not expect to submit other work for credit to replace any of the above items!*

Grading Scale

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	60-66
F	59 and below

(By using D2L, you can check your marks for any work that has been graded. Course grades will be available on D2L as soon as your finals have been graded.)

Academic Health Warning: You will automatically receive zero marks for the assignment if you commit any acts of dishonesty, such as plagiarism, in your work!

(Reference: UWS/UWSP Chapter 14, Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures found at www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf#page=11.)

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement: The ADA is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For UWSP's policies, see: www.uwsp.edu/hr/Pages/Affirmative Action/ADA.aspx.

If you require *classroom and/or exam accommodations*, please register with the **Disability and Assistive Technology Center** and then contact me at the beginning of the course. For more information, please visit the Disability Center's office, located at 604 LRC or their webpage at: www.uwsp.edu/datc/Pages/default.aspx.

Required Textbook from Text Rental

Disputed Moral Issues: A Reader, 3rd edition, ed. Mark Timmons (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014)

Schedule of Topics and Readings**Introduction**

Sep 5 A Moral Theory Primer: sections 1 & 3 (pp. 1-5, 31-35)

Part 1: Living in a Community**Political Correctness**

Sep 10 Consequentialism (pp. 6-11), Hate Speech (p. 139-140), **Lawrence** (pp.174-177)

Sep 12 **Arthur** (pp. 178-185)

War on Drugs

- Sep 17 Rights-Based Moral Theory (pp. 20-25), **Boaz** (pp. 194-199)
 Sep 19 **de Marneffe** (pp. 200-209)
 Sep 24 Liberty-Limiting Principles (pp. 134-137), **Goodin** (pp. 210-215), **Quiz 1**

Racism (and Sexism)

- Sep 26 Sexism and Racism, Reparation (pp. 224-226), **Frye** (pp. 229-234)
 Oct 1 Virtue Ethics (pp. 25-26), **Garcia** (pp. 235-242)
 Oct 3 **Garcia** (pp. 242-245), **Shelby**: The Role of Racist Beliefs & Is a Racist Heart Essential? (pp. 250-254)
 Oct 8 Kantian Moral Theory (pp. 15-20), **Pojman** (pp. 256-264)
 Oct 10 Ethics of Prima Facie Duties (pp. 26-29), **Hill** (pp. 265-273), **Quiz 2**

Oct 15 In-class Mid-term Exam

Part 2: Living in an Inter-Connected WorldInequality and Poverty

- Oct 17 The Duty of Beneficence, Consequentialism (pp. 642-644), **Hardin** (pp. 645-650)
 Oct 22 **Singer** (pp. 651-663)
 Oct 24 **Arthur** (pp. 665-673), **Sen** (pp. 674-679)
 Oct 29 **O'Neill** (pp. 680-685), **Quiz 3**

Climate Change and the Environment

- Oct 31 Sections 1-3 (pp. 687-689), **Baxter** (pp. 694-698), **Leopold** (pp. 699-703)
 Nov 5 Consumption and Climate Change (p.690-692), **Wenz** (pp.711-721)
 Nov 7 **Sinnott-Armstrong**: sections 1-5, 7 (pp. 723-731, 734-735), Natural Law Theory (pp. 11-15), **Quiz 4**

Restricting Immigration

- Nov 12 Social Contract Theory (pp. 29-31), The Ethics of Immigration (pp. 276-280), **Macedo** (pp. 282-283), **Carens**: section I (pp. 294-296)
 Nov 14 **Macedo** (pp. 284-292)
 Nov 19 **Carens** (pp. 296-308)
 Nov 26 **Wellman**: sections I & II (pp. 309-321)
 Nov 28 **Wellman**: section III (pp. 321-324), **Fine**: sections I & II (pp. 329-334), **Quiz 5**

War on Terror

- Dec 3 Terrorism (pp. 565-566), **Walzer** (pp. 598-605)
 Dec 5 Natural Law and Just-War Theory, Jus ad Bellum, Jus in Bello (pp. 568-570), **Valls** (pp. 606-615)
 Dec 10 Torture (pp. 566-567), **Dershowitz** (pp. 617-627)
 Dec 12 **Baron**: sections 1-5 (pp. 628-633), **Quiz 6**

Dec 18, 8:00-10:00am **Final Exam for Section 1**

Dec 19, 2:45-4:45pm **Final Exam for Section 2**