

The University of Calgary
PHIL 249 L03
Morality, Virtue, and Society
Fall 2009
Lectures: TuTh 9.30-10.45 in SS 109

Instructor:	Noa Latham	TA:	Mostafa Mansur
Office:	SS 1250	Office:	SS 1229
Phone:	220 5528	Phone:	220-7518
Email:	latham@ucalgary.ca	email:	mnmansur@ucalgary.ca
Office hours:	Tu 2-3, Th 11-12, and by appointment	Office hours:	TBA

Course Description

We will begin by discussing the relation between religion and morality. Next we will examine different ideas about what is good for a person. Then we will turn to the two most influential approaches to understanding what actions are right, and their two most famous exponents—John Stuart Mill and Immanuel Kant. Then we will discuss whether morality is objective, and finally we shall look at some practical issues: overpopulation, poverty, and the sanctity of life.

Required Readings

A course package of readings from classical and contemporary sources is available at the University Bookstore.

Course Requirements

A take-home midterm due Oct 5 worth 20% of the final grade, two papers 1200-1800 words (4-6 pages) due Oct 16 and Dec 9, worth 25% of the final grade each, and a Registrar-scheduled final exam, worth 25%. Class participation will account for 5%. Cumulative and final grades will be computed by Gradebook on the Blackboard site using the following scale:

A+	98-100	B+	86-89	C+	74-77	D+	62-65
A	94-97	B	82-85	C	70-73	D	58-61
A-	90-93	B-	78-81	C-	66-69	F	0-57

The midterm and papers are due at 4pm in the drop box outside my office. Late papers will be marked down by one grade step (e.g. from B to B-) for each day of lateness. (The time between Fri and Mon counts as one day.) If you are anticipating any difficulty in turning your assignment in on time you must discuss the problem with me or your T.A. before the due date.

Tentative Schedule

Sep 8	Introduction	
Sep 10, 15	Religion and Morality Law	
Sep 17	The Good for a Person	Mill
Sep 22		Nozick, Brandt
Sep 24		Finnis
Sep 29		Parfitt
Oct 1	Utilitarianism	Mill
Oct 6, 8		Williams
Oct 13	Deontology	Ross
Oct 15, 20		Kant
Oct 22, 27		Langton
Oct 29	Subjectivity	Mackie
Nov 3		Rachels, Harman
Nov 5		Smith
Nov 10	Overpopulation	Parfit
Nov 17, 19	Poverty	Singer, McGinn
Nov 24, 26	Animals	Singer, Rachels, U.N.
Dec 1, 3	Euthanasia	Rachels, Sullivan
Dec 8		Foot

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVE

The Humanities Representative is Britney Luimes, MSC 251, humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca or 220-3913.
