

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**  
**Philosophy 347 Lec 01 – Contemporary Moral Problems**  
**Fall 2009**

*Lectures: MWF 12:00-12:50 (SS541)*

Instructor: Greg Janzen  
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Phone: 220-3171

Office: SS1226  
Office Hour: M 11:00-11:50

**Course Description**

This course explores a range of topics of current moral and social significance. We will begin by taking a brief look at ethical theory, which will provide a framework within which to later analyze these controversies. Topics we will address include euthanasia, famine relief, abortion, and same-sex marriage. The course has two principal aims: (1) to help students become conversant with the contemporary philosophical literature on some central issues in applied ethics, and (2) to equip students with some techniques for the critical analysis of these issues.

**Text**

The required text for the course is *Contemporary Moral Problems*, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition, ed. James E. White (Wadsworth). Most of the readings for the course can be found in this text. Some additional required readings will be made available on Blackboard.

**Evaluation**

There will be a mid-term exam worth 25% of the final grade, a term paper worth 35% (recommended length: 6-7 pp.), and a Registrar-scheduled final exam worth 40%.

To ensure fairness to those who submit their essays on time, late submissions will be penalized a letter grade for each late day, unless some university recognized ground for delay is provided. *Assignments will not be accepted via email.*

Grading assignments is more of an art than a science, but as a rough guide the essays will be graded according to the following criteria: (1) degree of understanding of the material; (2) quality of philosophical argument; and (3) clarity of expression.

The following conversion table will be used to calculate final letter grades:

< 50% F	60-63 C-	70-74 B-	86-91 A-
50-54 D	64-66 C	75-79 B	92-96 A
55-59 D+	67-69 C+	80-85 B+	97-100 A+

**Assignment and Test Schedule**

Mid-Term Exam	Wednesday, Oct. 14
Essay	Wednesday, Nov. 18
Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam	TBA

## **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](mailto:humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca) or 220-3913.