UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 347 Lec 01
Contemporary Moral Problems
Spring Term 2021

Course Outline

Instructor: Dr. David Boutland
Office: N/A
Office hours (via Zoom): W 9-10:30am, or by appointment
Phone: N/A
E-mail: cdmboutl@ucalgary.ca

Lectures: The course will be run asynchronously. A recording of each lecture will be accessible on D2l throughout the semester.

Prerequisites:
There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course description:
The course examines a variety of moral problems facing contemporary society. Topics to be discussed include sexual ethics, pornography, abortion, world poverty, capital punishment, physician-assisted death, performance-enhancing drugs, animal rights, and environmental responsibility.

Course Objectives:
- Broad knowledge of diverse philosophical issues, problems, traditions, and views in applied ethics;
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex sources;
- Ability to write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions;
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation.

Texts:
1) Readings will be made available through Library e-journals and will be posted on D2L (respectful of copyright).

Course Assessment:
There are five discussion board posts, two exams and a term paper. The exams are not timed, students will be given 72 hours to write each exam. The paper will be on assigned topics from the readings. Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course. For further explanation, see the University Calendar at http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html. There will NOT be a Registrar-scheduled final exam.

Weight	Assignment	Due dates
30%	Discussion Board	Weekly, starting May 10th
20%	Exam 1	May 26th - 29th
20%	Exam 2	June 16th - 19th
30%	Paper	June 21st

Assignments are to be submitted on D2L. Late work will be penalized one letter-grade step per day, unless there is a documented excuse such as illness or family emergency. For example, an A- paper will receive a B+ if submitted within 24 hours of the assignment deadline, and a B if submitted between 24 and 48 hours after the assignment deadline. A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a pass in the course as a whole.

Weekly Discussion Board Posts (5 x 6% = 30%)
> Each week students will be given a discussion question related to the weekly topic and will be required to write a brief commentary, as well as a response to at least one other comment. Comments must be a minimum of 250 words, and responses must be a minimum 100 words.

Exams (20% each)
> The exams will be made available on Wednesday, May 26th and Wednesday, June 16th respectively. Students will be given 72 hours to complete the exam and submit it on D2L. Exams will consist of essay-style questions.

Paper (30%)
> Paper topics will be given well in advance of the due date. Papers are to be approximately 1500 words. Your paper must be grammatically correct, with correct punctuation and spelling. Publication information must be provided for any source you use, in any commonly used format you prefer.

Letter grades reflect the following standards, as outlined in the UCalgary Academic Calendar:
A: Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
B: Good — clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
C: Satisfactory — basic understanding of the subject matter.
D: Minimal pass — marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F: Fail — unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

The quality of writing will be a component in grading.

Grading scale:

A+	97-100	A	93-96	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

Important Dates:

Start of Classes: May 5th
End of Add/Drop Period: May 11th
Recognized Holidays: May 24th
Last day to Withdraw: June 17th
End of Classes: June 17th
Final Exam Period: June 21st to 23rd

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Academic Accommodations
It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. The student accommodation policy can be found at ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf. Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

Absence or Missed Course Assessments
Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.

Student Support and Resources
Full details and information about the following resources can be found at ucalgary.ca/Registrar/registration/course-outlines
- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

Academic Advising
If you are a student in the Faculty of Arts, you can speak to an academic advisor in the Arts Students' Centre about course planning, course selection, registration, program progression and more. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit phil.ucalgary.ca. Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director dgdick@ucalgary.ca) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor jfantl@ucalgary.ca). If you have

questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator phildept@ucalgary.ca).

Writing Assessment and Support
The assessment of all written assignments—and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses—is based in part on writing skills. This includes correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.), as well as general clarity and organization. Research papers must include a thorough and accurate citation of sources. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services for assistance. For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Required Technology
In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:
  • A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
  • A current and updated web browser;
  • Webcam (built-in or external);
  • Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
  • Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
  • Broadband internet connection.
Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Responsible Use of D2L
Important information and communication about this course will be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit ucalgary.service-now.com/it for how-to information and technical assistance.

All users of D2L are bound by the guidelines on the responsible use of D2L posted here: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/commitment-to-the-responsible-use-of-d2l/. The instructor may establish additional specific course policies for D2L, Zoom, and any other technologies used to support remote learning. Instructional materials, including audio or video recordings of lectures, may not be posted outside of the course D2L site. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

Media Recording

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

Academic Misconduct/Honesty
Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which will be an F on the assignment or an F in the course, and possibly a disciplinary sanction such as probation, suspension, or expulsion. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about referencing, please consult your instructor.

University Policies
The Instructor Intellectual Property Policy is available at
ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip. The instructor (or TA) must return graded assignments *directly* to the student UNLESS written permission to do otherwise has been provided.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html).