



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 347 Lec 01 – “Contemporary Moral Problems”

Winter Term 2012

Course Outline

Lectures: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 15:00-15:50 in SS 113

Instructor: David G. Dick

Office: SS 1224

Phone: 403-220-6434

Email: dgdick@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:00pm-2:00pm, and by appointment

Course Description

This course aims to simultaneously introduce moral philosophy and the way it can be applied to practical problems and current moral disputes. By the end of the course, students should understand several prominent moral theories well enough to apply them to both the moral problems discussed explicitly in the class, and to the new issues that will inevitably arise in the future. The particular issues this class will engage will include euthanasia, suicide, drugs, poverty, and the treatment of non-human animals.

Required Texts

Disputed Moral Issues (Second Edition)

Timmons, Mark (editor), Oxford University Press, 2010 ISBN 978-0-19-538872-5

Additional materials will be indicated via the Blackboard site for this class.

Available at: <https://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login/>

Evaluation

Participation:	5%	
Weekly Questions:	10%	
First In-Class Exam:	25%	Friday, February 10th
Second In-Class Exam:	30%	Friday, March 23rd
Paper:	30%	Due: Friday, April 13th

This course has no Registrar administered final exam, only a final paper.

With the exception of the credit earned for participation, the entire mark will involve being graded on written work. Naturally, standards for essays prepared outside class will be much higher than those for weekly assignments and in-class exams.

The final grade will be based on the credit accumulated from the various assignments, so it is mathematically possible to pass the course without turning in any particular assignment. But this strategy is not recommended.

Participation:

I want you to be engaged with the material and the class, so I'm rewarding you for giving me evidence that you are. This evidence can come in many forms, such as attending and participating in the class and its discussions, visiting me in office hours to discuss course material, or sending me an email with a good idea or question when one comes to you.

Weekly Questions:

Each week, on a day of your choice, I'd like you to submit a question based on the reading for the day that you submit the question. The question you write should convince me that you've read the day's reading, at least well enough to be confused by it. I'm not kidding: confusion is a philosophical heuristic, it either helps you identify a place where you don't understand, or where the argument doesn't make sense. Either one of these counts as philosophical progress.

These questions and their explanations need not be any longer than about half a page. (I'll post an example of what I mean to Blackboard.)

Weekly questions are due at the beginning of each class, in hard copy. You can only submit a weekly question on a day you attend class. (This is also a way of encouraging and tracking attendance.)

There are 13 weeks including this first one, but I'll only be asking for 12 weekly questions from you this semester. It's entirely up to you which day you'd like to pass on. Extra weekly questions beyond this 12 will be read, but will not count for any extra credit.

Midterms and Papers:

Will be in the form of philosophical essays written in response to topics I will distribute in advance of the days the papers are due or the midterms are given.

Further instructions will be included when those topics are distributed.

Grading Method

All evaluated material will be graded on a scale from A+ to F. To weight assignments and calculate the final grade, these letter grades will be converted into the standard 4.0 scale:

4.3 - A+	3.3 - B+	2.3 - C+	1.3 - D+	0.0 - F
4.0 - A	3.0 - B	2.0 - C	1.0 - D	
3.7 - A-	2.7 - B-	1.7 - C-		

The arithmetic that will calculate your final grade will follow this formula:

$$(\text{Partic.}) \cdot 0.05 + (\text{W. Questions}) \cdot 0.10 + (\text{1st Paper}) \cdot 0.25 + (\text{Midterm}) \cdot 0.25 + (\text{2nd Paper}) \cdot 0.35 = \text{Final Grade}$$

Policy on Late Assignments

Weekly questions and the midterm exam are to be submitted in class and will not be accepted late. Late term papers are accepted, with a penalty of one full grade per 24-hour period late. So, an A- paper submitted between 24 and 48 hours after it was due would receive a C-. Once a paper is late, it should be submitted via email (to me at dgdick@ucalgary.ca) as soon as it is ready.

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 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, 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.

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING & STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, phone 403-220-3580 or email at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at 403-220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.
- Email Contact Addresses for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:
arts1@su.ucalgary.ca arts2@su.ucalgary.ca
arts3@su.ucalgary.ca arts4@su.ucalgary.ca