THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline: Autumn and Winter, 2015

Philosophy 2070E: Ethics and Society

Autumn & Winter 2015-16	**Office Location: Stevenson Hall 4132**
Tues. & Thurs., 11:30-12:30	**Office Hours: Tues., 9-10 & Thurs.,**
Location: P&AB-106	**12:30-1:30, or by appointment.**
Instructor: Meghan Winsby	**E-mail: megwinsby@gmail.com**

DESCRIPTION

How we should act and how we should organize ourselves are two important questions faced by members of any society. This course will examine what both moral and political philosophy have to offer as guidance for answering these questions. The course will introduce different theoretical frameworks for evaluating moral and political claims and then apply them to controversial problems facing contemporary society. Each class will strive for a good balance between lecture and discussion. Philosophy is not a spectator sport, and participation in class discussions is highly encouraged!

In the autumn term, we will be largely concerned with the morality of decisions involving life and death in the health care context. Accordingly, we will be examining and evaluating debates about stem cell research and the moral status of the human embryo, abortion, euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide. We will close the term with a look at the ethical treatment of non-human animals. In the winter, we will broaden our focus to cover issues of sexual morality, of sex, gender and race, punishment, war and terrorism, and our obligations to the global poor.

TEXTS

Disputed Moral Issues: A Reader (2nd. Ed.) *Edited by Mark Timmons*
(required **winter term**)

All other readings can be accessed online and through Western's electronic journal database, and copies will be made available online through the OWL site for this course, in folders located under the Resources tab. These readings are marked in the course schedule with an asterisk (*). The Timmons text is required for the winter term only.

REQUIREMENTS

Your grade for this course will be based on four 1000-word essays and eight quizzes. Each paper is worth 20 percent of the final grade and the quizzes as a whole 20 percent of the final grade.

1. Essay
Due date: Thursday, October 22, 2015
Length: No more than 1000 words
Value: 20% of final grade

2. Essay
Due date: Thursday, December 3, 2015
Length: No more than 1000 words
Value: 20% of final grade

3. Essay
Due date: Thursday, February 11, 2016
Length: No more than 1000 words
Value: 20% of final grade

4. Essay
Due date: Thursday, March 31, 2016
Length: No more than 1000 words
Value: 20% of final grade

5. In-class Quizzes
Value: 20% of final grade (best five of eight will be counted)

POLICY

GENERAL

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

PLAGIARISM

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf .

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system.

Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).