

PHL 275 H/F

INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS

FALL 2013, MW12

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:00-4:00 or by appointment

Course Description

This course will introduce the main questions of philosophical ethics, under three main headings. (1) The Nature of Morality. Do moral judgements apply universally or are they relative to a particular society or person? What is the relation between morality and religion? Can moral judgements be objectively true or do they merely express emotions? (2) Moral Principles. What are the most general principles concerning right and wrong? Do they tell us always to do what will result in the most good, and what does that good consist in? Or is it sometimes wrong to do what will have the best result, for example, because it violates independent rules forbidding lying or killing? (3) Applied Ethics. How does philosophy help us solve particular ethical problems such as about world hunger, euthanasia, and morality in war?

Required Text

Xeroxed coursepack, available FROM FRIDAY SEPT. 6 at Alicos Copy Shop, 203A College Street (south side, just east of St. George, next to Starbucks)

Evaluation

There will be a 1200-word essay due Friday, Oct. 18, an 1800-word essay due Monday, Dec. 2, and a final examination during the scheduled exam period. The first essay will be worth 20%, the second essay 35%, and the final examination 35% of the final grade. There will also be 10% for tutorials: 5% for attendance and 5% for participation. Unless arrangements have been made in advance, essays will have up to 2 marks per day deducted if they are late.

Turnitin.com

Normally students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Blackboard

Essay topics will be posted on Blackboard, as will lecture notes (on the day the lecture is given).

Accessibility

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity

The University of Toronto treats academic misconduct very seriously. Academic integrity is a fundamental value of learning and scholarship at the UofT. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that your UofT degree is valued and respected as a true signifier of your individual academic achievement.

The University of Toronto's [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic misconduct, the processes for addressing academic offences, and the penalties that may be imposed. You are expected to be familiar with the contents of this document. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment (this includes working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work).

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone.
- Looking at someone else's answers.
- Letting someone else look at your answers.
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.

Misrepresentation:

- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information from me or other available campus resources like the [College Writing Centres](#), the [Academic Success Centre](#), or the [U of T Writing Website](#).