

University of Waterloo
Department of Philosophy

Philosophy 215 (001)
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS ETHICS
Fall 2008

Instructor: Greg Andres **Email:** gandres@uwo.ca
Class: Tuesday 7-10 in MC 1085 **Office Hour:** Tuesday 5:30-6:30 in HH366
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to professional and business ethics (emphasis in this section will be placed heavily on the latter). Ethics, broadly speaking, is the branch of philosophy which seeks to analyze principles of conduct which govern human activity.

This course is divided into two parts. In the first part we will study various normative theories which aim to analyze what *the good* is. We will look at four normative theories: virtue theory, consequentialism (specifically utilitarianism), deontology, and rights-theory. We will look specifically at the philosophical importance of these theories against the historical context in which they developed. In the second part we will address questions of applied ethics specifically related to our lives as economic creatures. We will address such questions as: Why do we work? What is a just distribution of goods? Do businesses have a social responsibility? Do we have an obligation to consume? If our motivation to be socially conscious is purely economic, is that good enough?

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with the means to examine and assess ethical, social, and political issues in a clear and concise way.

REQUIRED TEXT

Joanne Ciulla et al. Honest Work. OUP, 2007.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Evaluation will be based on ten (10) argument outlines, one (1) short essay, and a final exam. The marks break down as follows:

- 10 Outlines: 50% (weighted equally)
- 1 Essay: 20%
- 1 Final Exam: 30%

Please see class website for due dates and other information. No late work will be accepted except for documented medical or compassionate grounds.

REGARDING ACADEMIC OFFENSES

All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (§1 on the Web at <http://www.ucalendar.uwaterloo.ca/UW/policies.html>). If you need help in learning what constitutes an academic offence; how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission; how to follow appropriate rules with respect to group work and collaboration; or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your TA and/or your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

The following is extracted from Policy 71:

Academic offenses include...Plagiarism, which is the act of presenting the ideas, words or other intellectual property of another as ones own. The use of other peoples work must be properly acknowledged and referenced in all written essays, laboratory reports, work-term reports, design projects, statistical data, computer programs and research results. The properly acknowledged use of sources is an accepted and important part of scholarship. Use of such material without complete and unambiguous acknowledgment, however, is an offense under this policy.

NOTE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Note for students with disabilities The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.