

University of Waterloo
Department of Philosophy

Philosophy 110B (LEC 001)
Philosophy: Ethics and Values

Term Fall 2011
Class: T/TH 2:30 - 3:50
Classroom: AL211

Instructor: Gregory Andres, Ph.D.
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to ethics and value theory. Ethics, broadly speaking, is the branch of philosophy which seeks to analyze principles of conduct which govern human activity. Value theory is the branch of philosophy which seeks to analyze what sorts of things have value, and what gives them value. The issues that arise from these two areas of investigation are many and complex, and this course will reflect this.

We begin the course by examining the nature of ethical statements. For example, when we say murder is wrong are we saying something that is truth-apt? Is it true or false, in the same way that a statement of arithmetic is true or false? Or do such statements simply say something about us? our emotional state? our own personal beliefs and desires? We will then move on to study various normative theories which aim to analyze what the good is. In setting out those principles to live by, should our primary focus be on duties? on the consequences of our actions? virtue? or our narrow self-interest? In the third section we will address questions of applied ethics and value theory, which will involve giving serious thought to many issues that we face today. What are our obligations towards the environment? How should we organize ourselves economically?

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 & ACCESSORIES

1. Duncan Richter, *Why Be Good? A Historical Introduction to Ethics*, Oxford University Press: 2008.
2. iClicker

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance & Participation: (20 lectures x 1% = 20%)
2. Assignments: (2 x 10% = 20%)
3. Minor Essay: (1 x 25% = 25%)
4. Major Essay: (1 x 35% = 35%)

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

COURSE WEBSITE

www.gregandres.com

ADDENDUM

TURNITIN:

Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all materials and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about arrangements for the use of Turnitin in this course.

CROSS-LISTED COURSE:

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about rules for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline:
<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4:
<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals:
<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW):

<http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

ACCOMMODATION 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.