

PHIL 110B: Intro to Ethics and Values

Winter '12. Sec. 01, AL 124, Tues. & Thurs., 2:30pm-3:50pm

Professor: Brian Orend, Dept. of Philosophy
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Office Hours: M, 3:30pm-5pm

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION: “Value theory” is composed of three parts: 1) ethics and morality; 2) justice and political theory; and 3) aesthetics (theory of art & beauty). We shall examine all the above, with an emphasis on the first, and using some case studies to illustrate theoretical points.

2. METHOD: The method by which this course will proceed is through lectures and readings, giving emphasis in class to critical discussion and thoughtful debate about these complex and important topics. Some A/V will be used; UW/ACE will not.

3. TEXT: The one text required for this course is available at the main UW bookstore: R. Shafer-Landau, *The Fundamentals of Ethics* (Oxford, 2nd ed., 2012).

4. REQUIREMENTS: There are two requirements for this course: 1) an in-class mid-term test (in two parts), worth 45%; and 2) one take-home final exam, worth 55%.

5. COURSE SCHEDULE: (subject to minor revisions regarding content)

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| Week One (01/03 & 05) | - Introduction and Administration - Value Theory in General and Its Relation to Practice - Reading: Introduction; Chaps 19 & 20 |
| Week Two (01/10 & 12) | - Teleology (Virtue Ethics) - Reading: Chapter 17 |
| Week Three (01/17 & 19) | - Deontology (Duty-Based Ethics) - Reading: Chapters 11 & 12 |
| Week Four (01/24 & 26) | - Consequentialism (esp. Utilitarianism) - Reading: Chapter 9 |
| Week Five (01/31 & 02/02) | - Rights-Based Ethics - Reading: Chapter 13 |
| Week Six (02/07 & 02/09) | - Feminist Ethics - ** prep for mid-term** - Reading: Chapter 18 |
| Week Seven (02/14 & 02/16) | - <u>** Mid-Term Test: Part 1, the 14th; Part 2, the 16th **</u> |

- Week Eight**
(02/21 & 02/23) - **** No Classes, Reading Week Holiday ****
- Week Nine
(02/28 & 03/01) - Justice #1: Conservatism & Socialism
- **no readings; all material from lecture.**
- Week Ten
(03/06 & 03/08) - Justice #2: Liberalism (Both Classical & Welfare)
- **no readings; all material from lecture.**
- Week Eleven
(03/13 & 03/15) - Justice #3: International Justice
- **no readings; all material from lecture.**
- Week Twelve
(03/20 & 03/22) - Aesthetics #1
- **no readings; all material from lecture.**
- Week Thirteen**
(03/27 & 03/29) - **Last Week of Class;**
- Aesthetics #2. No readings
- **** Hand Out of Take-Home Final Exam****, on the 29th, which will be due in my inbox, by 12 noon on April 5th. More instructions as date draws closer.****

6. Required University Policy Declarations:

Note on avoidance of academic offences: 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 (section 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. 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.