

Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

Course Title: Intro to Ethics & Value Theory

Course Number and Section

PHILOSOPHY

2700F - 551

Instructor Name(s): Dr. Jonathan P. Marsh

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

We are going to be asking two questions:

- Q1. What, if anything, do all morally “right” actions have in common?
Q2. What, if anything, do all “good” (happy, meaningful) lives have in common?

In response to the first question, we’ll compare answers from UTILITARIANISM, KANTIAN ETHICS and NATURAL LAW, in Unit 1, and apply them to a number of controversies—concerning, for instance, our obligations in connection with the poor, PVS patients and non-human animals.

In Unit 2, we shall survey some recent criticisms of these traditions.

Finally, moving on to the second question, in Unit 3, we’ll discuss rival accounts of well-being against the backdrop of the problems of suffering and death.

Learning Outcomes:

1. become acquainted with some of the leading ethical theories, their applications, and various evaluative controversies regarding well-being and death (THEORETICAL UNDERSTANDING),
2. carefully reflect on one's own value scale, including what goods one esteems as having final worth (SELF-KNOWLEDGE),
3. present and defend a sustained argument on a topic in ethics and/or value theory in the midst of carefully entertaining sophisticated criticisms and alternative perspectives (PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT),
4. cultivate intellectual virtues pertaining to argumentation, dialogue, interpretation, research and clear writing (to help with outcomes 1-3) (SKILLS)

Textbooks and Course Materials:

There is no textbook. All readings will be made available via OWL.

Methods of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
1. Applied Ethics Exercise	10/05/2023	20%

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
2. Research Paper (Option A)	11/15/2023	30%
3. Research Paper (Option B)	11/30/2023	
4. Exam	December Examination Period (Date: TBA)	30%
5. Active & Informed Participation	Weekly	20%

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.