

Brief Course Outline

Course Title:

Normative Ethics

Course Number and Section

PHILOSOP

3720F 550

Instructor Name(s):

Emily Torine Cichocki

Instructor Email(s):

ecichock@uwo.ca

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

Course Description:

We live in a messy and complicated world—one in which we frequently have to make complex and nuanced decisions that have moral weight. You might ask yourself questions like: Should I tell the truth or a white lie to save a friend from uncomfortable feelings? Should I donate money to help those in poverty or save it to buy something nice for my family? What should I do about the constant waging violence and war in our world? Is abortion morally permissible? Can/should I break laws if the laws themselves are unethical? Should I prioritize pleasure now or long-term pleasure that may come later? What do I owe to the people in my life that I love? What do I owe to myself?

In other words, life is full of ethical puzzles. Is there any objective measure we can use to determine whether we have good values or are taking good actions? In other words, are there objective moral truths? Does God or a higher power determine what is right and wrong? Or are our values just reflections of the values and conventions of our cultures?

This course will explore such questions. We will cover the big three ethical theories—consequentialism, virtue ethics, and deontology—alongside other views such as feminist ethics and care ethics. We will explore these theories in principle but also consider them in the context of applied real-world ethical problems.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

1. Increased aptitude for reading, understanding, and responding to philosophical arguments
2. Gained familiarity with the major philosophical debates in the area of normative ethics
3. Cultivated the ability to determine one's own position within these debates and revise one's view as needed
4. Increased capacity for having thoughtful, respectful, and nuanced discussions amidst philosophical disagreement
5. The ability to consider ethical puzzles in one's own life through the lens of these various ethical theories, express those insights in writing, and explain them to others

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Course readings will be made available on Brightspace. No textbook purchases are necessary.

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Reading Reflection 1		5
Reading Reflection 2		5
Reading Reflection 3		5
Ethical Theory Case Study Pitch		15
Ethical Theory Case Study		30
Participation		20

Friday, August 14, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

In-course Costs \$000.00

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

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