

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Ethics & Value Theory

Course Number and Section:

GLE

2002F 551

Instructor Name(s): Emerson Doyle

Instructor Email(s): edoyle9@uwo.ca

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:

Value Theory is the study of why we value certain things or ideals over others, and ultimately, what we should value most highly. Ethics, on the other hand, is concerned to study and recommend principles of right action. What should we do in such-and-such a situation? What would be the moral thing to do? In this course we will examine these issues by considering some of the premier theories of value and of right action in the Western philosophical tradition. We will also consider more carefully the relationship between ethics and value theory, as well as exploring applications of our analyses to some of the difficult moral questions facing humanity today.

Learning Outcomes:

Understand some of the most influential and prominent ethical positions

Practice your ability to confront and critically evaluate your own attitudes toward those questions

Improve your writing, critical analysis, and argumentative abilities

Conceptualize, defend, and ultimately communicate your own positions on a variety of complex and sometimes personal topics

Practice Active Reading of dense and difficult academic material

Textbooks and Course Materials:

All course readings will be posted on OWL.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Weekly In-Class Written Responses	Weekly	30
Critical Analysis	October 29th	20
Case Study	December 03rd	20

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Final Exam	Exam Period	30

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

Monday, August 18, 2025