

## Brief Course Outline

**Course Title:** **Intro to Ethics & Value Theory**

**Course Number and Section:**

PHILOSOP

2700G 551

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

**Instructor Email(s):** jmarsh26@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:

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 wellbeing and related goods against the backdrop of the problems of suffering and death.

### Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the semester, every committed student will

1. be acquainted with some of the leading ethical theories, their applications, and various evaluative controversies regarding well-being and death (THEORETICAL UNDERSTANDING),

2. have carefully reflected on their own value scale, including what they regard as having final worth, with the purpose of making more choiceworthy decisions (SELF-KNOWLEDGE & PRACTICAL WISDOM),

3. have presented and defended their own sustained argument on a topic in ethics and/or value theory in the midst of having carefully entertained criticisms and alternative perspectives (PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT),

4. have cultivated 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 freely available via OWL Brightspace. Nor are there any anticipated distinctive, i.e. class-specific, costs.

## Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Applied Ethics Exercise (in groups)	January 27	20%
Research Paper	March 18 (option A) or March 31 (option B)	30%
Exam		30%
Active & Informed Participation		20%

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

Monday, January 27, 2025