

Brief Course Outline

Course Title:

Normative Ethics

Course Number and Section:

PHILOSOP

3720G 550

Instructor Name(s):

Dr. Jennifer Epp

Instructor Email(s):

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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:

Normative ethical theories are intended as guides to moral life. They articulate and justify principles that ground moral deliberation and action in reason. Such theories attempt to guide us as we determine who we ought to be, how we ought to live, or how to engage with each other if we are to live together well. This course begins with discussion of the normative ethical project itself—what is it, and how might it differ from meta-ethics? We continue with a study of particular theoretical frameworks from the mid-20th Century onward in normative ethical theory, including Consequentialism, Deontology, and Virtue Ethics.

Learning Outcomes:

1. To develop student's abilities to identify, understand, construct and critique philosophical arguments. Students will enhance their oral and written communication skills, active listening skills, analytical ability and potential for creative problem solving via written assignments, collaborative exercises in interpretation and class discussion.
2. To familiarize students with twentieth century and contemporary debates related to major normative ethical theories, and to understand the complexity of these debates. Students will read relevant literature and engage in conceptual analysis and respectful debate within class.
3. To provide students with resources that may help them to think critically about how they would like to live and to engage in moral decision making. Students will enhance their ability to formulate questions in relation to course material and will have the opportunity to reflect on their own individual and collective ethical lives.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

PdF's available in the Resources section of OWL, one link to an on-line resource given in the reading list below, and:

Vukelich, James Kaagegaaba. 2023. The Seven Generations and The Seven Grandfather Teachings.

Order the book here (it is not available in the bookstore, cost approx. \$13): <https://www.jamesvukelich.com/books>.

Previously used copies are acceptable.

There are no other costs for course material or experiential learning.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Class Participation		15%
Current Issue Dialogue - Issue & Proposal	Feb. 14	15%
Current Issue Dialogue - Response	Mar. 1	15%
Essay	before Mar. 29	25%
Exam		30%

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