

Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

Course Title: Metaethics

Course Number and Section

PHILOSOPHY

3710F - 550

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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:

Practical ethics tries to decide what is deserving of moral acceptance or condemnation, praise or blame. Metaethics, by contrast, asks about the nature and possibility of practical ethics: how can there be morality at all? If moral judgments are due to conventions or folkways which evolved to help people get along, how could they be authoritative and non-optional for us? Is moral evaluation subjective or is it objective, or is the "subjective/objective" distinction defective? We will consider whether and in what way moral and aesthetic truths could be independent of belief, and there for us to miss or discover.

Learning Outcomes:

Be able to state some main metaethical theories and objections to them. Understand the elements of moral relativism, error theory, non-cognitivism, contractarianism, sensibility theories and moral realism, among other theories. Explore and defend a view about the nature of value judgments.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Readings to be provided in class and online.

Methods of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Quiz 1	10/11/2023	10%
Midterm	10/25/2023	20%
Quiz 2	11/20/2023	10%
Term Paper	12/06/2023	20%
Participation	Ongoing	10%
Final Test	TBA	30%

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