

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Ethics and Value Theory

Course Number and Section

GLE

2002G 550

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

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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 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: one outcome per entry

By the end of term, 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 available via OWL Brightspace.

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Applied Ethics Exercise (in groups)	TBA	20
Research Paper	TBA	30
Exam	April date TBA	30
Participation	Weekly	20

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

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Huron Brief Course Outline

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].