

University of Waterloo
Department of Philosophy
PHIL 110B
Philosophy: Ethics and Values
Winter 2016
Tue/Thur 1:00-2:20, AL 105

Instructor and T.A. Information

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Course Description

This course is an introduction to philosophical thinking about ethics and value, that is, about what is good, right, fair, and just, in life and in society. In this course we'll approach broader ideas about ethics and value through consideration of specific topics, including famine relief, euthanasia, animal rights, abortion, income inequality, sexism, racism, surrogacy, sex work, and environmental ethics. This course does not endorse any particular conclusions about the topics under consideration. Rather, the idea is to give you conceptual tools that will enable you make sense of various ethical and political disagreements and debates you'll encounter through life; the ultimate aim is to help you develop, and intelligently defend, your own views.

I will post study questions on LEARN ahead of time for each week's reading and you should come to class having given some thought to these. Course announcements and information will be on the LEARN page so please check it daily.

If you have questions about the syllabus, the course, the requirements, the assignments, or anything else to do with this course, please do not hesitate to ask at any time!

Readings Available on LEARN

All readings are posted on LEARN as pdfs you can download.

Course Requirements and Assessment

There will be three tests during the term. Tests will be a mix of quotation identification, quotation explanation, short answer and short essay. There is no final exam.

- Test 1, Jan 28, 25%
- Test 2, Mar 3, 35%
- Test 3, Mar 31, 40%

Course Outline

Week 1: Introduction and global poverty

- Jan 5 Introduction
- Jan 7 Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality," *Philosophy & Public Affairs* (1972): 229-243.

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Week 2: Global poverty continued

- Jan 12: Onora O'Neill, "Kantian Approaches to Some Famine Problems," (published 1980), reprinted in Russ Shafer-Landau (ed.), *Ethical Theory: An Anthology* (Wiley, 2013), pp. 510-520.
- Jan 14: Amartya Sen, "Property and Hunger," *Economics and Philosophy*, 4(01) 57 (2008), 57-68.

Week 3: Assisted suicide and euthanasia

- Jan 19: James Rachels, "Active and Passive Euthanasia," *The New England Journal of Medicine* 292.2 (1975), open-source post-print.
- Jan 21: Daniel Callahan, "A Case Against Euthanasia," in Andrew Cohen and Christopher Heath Wellman, eds. *Contemporary Debates in Applied Ethics* (John Wiley & Sons, 2014), pp. 179-190.

Week 4: Moral status of animals and first test

- Jan 26: Peter Singer, "Equality for Animals?" excerpted from *Practical Ethics*, (Cambridge University Press, 1979), chap. 3.
- Jan 28: **First test**

Week 5: Abortion

- Feb 2: Peter Singer, selection from *Practical Ethics 2nd edition* (Cambridge University Press, 1993) (read pages 83-109).
- Feb 4: Don Marquis, "Why Abortion is Immoral," *The Journal of Philosophy*, 86(4) (1989), 183–202.

Week 6: Abortion, continued, and life and death decisions for disabled infants

- Feb 9: Judith Jarvis Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 1(1) (1971), 47-66.
- Feb 11: Peter Singer, selection from *Practical Ethics* (read pages 181-190) and Harriet McBryde Johnson, "Unspeakable Conversations," *New York Times Magazine*, February 16, 2003.

READING WEEK

Week 7: Income inequality

- Feb 23: John Rawls, selection from *A Theory of Justice* (first published 1971), reprinted in Russ Shafer-Landau, *Ethical Theory* (Wiley, 2013) 581-591.
- Feb 25: Robert Nozick, "Distributive Justice," *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 3 (1973), 45-126 (read pages 45 to 61 only).

Week 8: Inequality continued and second test

- Mar 1: Gerald Cohen, "Robert Nozick and Wilt Chamberlain: How Patterns Preserve Liberty," *Erkenntnis*, 11(1), 5-23.
- Mar 3: **second test**

Week 9: Sexism and gender oppression

- Mar 8: Marilyn Frye, "Sexism," in *The politics of Reality: Essays in Feminist Theory* (Crossing Press, 1983): 17-40.
- Mar 10: Ann Cudd, "Oppression by Choice," *Journal of Social Philosophy*," 25 (1994), 22-44.

Week 10: Race and racism

- Mar 15: Jorge Garcia, "The Heart of Racism." *Journal of Social Philosophy* 27.1 (1996): 5-46.
- Mar 17: Tommie Shelby, "Is Racism in the 'Heart'?" *Journal of Social Philosophy* 33.3 (2002): 411-420.

Week 11: The limits of markets: surrogacy and sex work

- Mar 23: Elizabeth Anderson, "Is Women's Labor a Commodity?" *Philosophy and Public Affairs* (1990), 71-92.
- Mar 25: Deborah Satz, "Markets in Women's Sexual Labor," *Ethics* 106(1) (1995), 63-85

Week 12: Environmental ethics and third test

- Mar 29: Mark Sagoff, "At the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, or Why Political Questions Are Not All Economic," *Arizona Law Review* Vol. 23 (1981), pp. 1283-1298.
- Mar 31: **Third test**

Late work

If you experience unexpected difficulties like illness or personal difficulties, please let me know as soon as possible. If you expect to miss a deadline or test, it's essential to let me know by email before the deadline or test. If anything arises that gets in the way of you doing your work for this class, do come talk to me: I'm here to help and I'll do what I can.

Information on Plagiarism Detection

No formal or technological plagiarism detection mechanisms will be used in this class.

Electronic Device Policy

There is no formal policy against the use of laptops or tablets in class, but there are two rules: 1) please do not use technology in ways that are distracting to me or to the other students and 2) please be mentally present for what is going on in the classroom. This means no videos, no social networking, no email, and no checking your phone during class. If you must use your phone, please leave the classroom.

Etiquette

Please feel free to call me "Patricia." Or you can call me "Professor Marino" or "Dr. Marino" if you prefer.

Attendance Policy

Though attendance is not part of your assessment, in practice you have to be in class to understand the material. If you have to miss class you are responsible for finding out what content you missed.

Cross-listed course

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#).

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances](#), Section 4.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read [Policy 72 - Student Appeals](#).

Other sources of information for students:

[Academic Integrity website \(Arts\)](#)

[Academic Integrity Office \(UWaterloo\)](#)

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (NH 1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.