

CRN#12622

September – December 2024  
TWF: 12:30am – 1:20pm

Instructor: Scott Woodcock [he/they]  
Office: CLE B316  
Phone: 472-4462  
Email: woodcock@uvic.ca  
Office Hours: Tues 1:30-2:30pm open hours + individual zoom meetings by appointment

:

The aim of this course is to introduce students to a variety of controversial moral issues in contemporary society. In particular, students will be encouraged to carefully examine the philosophical arguments that arise in debates surrounding these controversial issues. The moral problems we will address in the course involve complex and often highly sensitive questions. The goal is to enable students to thoughtfully engage this subject matter and to learn how to articulate their opinions in the most persuasive way possible. The issues we will address in the course include the following: the moral status of non-human animals,

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point	Grade Definition
90 – 100	A+	9	An A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically , shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students.
85 – 89	A	8	
80 – 84	A-	7	
77 – 79	B+	6	A B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates a comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student's full engagement with the course

:

Dates listed are subject to change. Class attendance is vital to stay informed about revised scheduling. Material is meant to be read **before** the date when it will be discussed so that students can get the most out of lectures and be prepared to participate.

Week            Readings

<p>_____</p> <p>Sept. 4</p>	<p>First Meeting</p>
<p>Sept. 6</p>	<p>Peter Singer: All Animals are Equal</p> <p>Suggested = Cheryl Abbate: Animal Ethics</p>
<p>_____</p> <p>Sept. 10</p> <p> </p> <p>Sept. 13</p>	<p>Daniel R. DeNicola: Intro to Moral Philosophy Chapter 6: Utilitarianism</p> <p>Daniel R. DeNicola: Intro to Moral Philosophy Chapter 7: Kantianism</p>

---



<hr style="width: 10%; margin: 0 auto;"/> Nov. 26	Valentin Beck: Consumer Boycotts as Instruments for Structural Change Suggested = Ewan Kingston: Shopping with a Conscience The Epistemic Case for Relinquishment over Conscientious Consumption
Nov. 27	Bradley Elicker: Why We Should Avoid Artists Who Cause Harm Suggested = Shen-yi Liao: The Art of Immoral Artists
Nov. 29	Mary Beth Willard: Epistemic Injustice, Jerks, Boycotts, and You
<hr style="width: 10%; margin: 0 auto;"/>          Dec. 4	Krista K. Thomason: The Moral Risks of Online Shaming Suggested = Kathryn J. Norlock: Online Shaming          Review

there will be a . I do not control the date of this exam, and I don't have the power to change this date once it is scheduled. Therefore, do not book travel during the exam schedule until you know this date.

---

We will try to include as much interactive discussion in class as we can while at the same





: Do the readings in advance to get the most out of the lectures. Make sure you clearly understand the material **as we cover it**(using email or office hours if necessary), and make solid notes as you go. Then, when you prepare for a test/assignment, use your notes to **remind** yourself of what you have previously understood. In short, your aim should be to gain clear comprehension of the material as we discuss it so you can get help if you need it. Avoid trying to learn material right before a text or assignment.

: No. I genuinely sympathize with these requests, but I do not grant extensions based on workload rather than illness or family emergency so **please do not ask me this**. As stressful as workload issues are for students, I can't compare the workloads different students in the class might be facing without my knowledge. All I can do is give due dates well in advance and recommend that students plan accordingly.

:

*maybe*

: No. I respect students trying to tough things out, but think it over procedurally from the perspective of the university: it is 100% reasonable to delay a test due to student illness, but it is another thing entirely to let a student see the contents of that test and then have a second try at it. Therefore, if you think you might not be well enough to write an exam, then do not write that exam. Contact me instead.

: I don't know! There are just so many options.