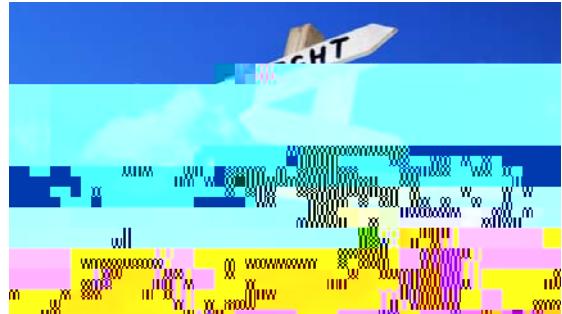


Moral Problems of Contemporary Society

Ph232A02 Spring 2019

CRN 2358

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Class meetings: Tue, Wed, Fri 11:30-12:20
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Course description

In this course we discuss ethically significant issues of our societies with a philosophical perspective. We begin with a discussion of the distinction between ethics and applied ethics, the role of arguments in ethics, and the relation of ethics to religion and to law. Throughout the remainder of our contemporary world.

- To carefully examine the philosophical arguments that arise surrounding the controversial issues discussed in the course.
- To sharpen our ability for critical analysis of assumptions and arguments, and how to assess their strength and weaknesses supported by consideration of realistic cases.

Texts and Course space readings

Required text: A Course pack plus selected texts to be downloaded from Course space (see details on the schedule of lectures below). Be attentive to announcements in class and on Course space. Recommended optional: Anthony Weston, *A Rulebook for Arguments* (Hackett).

Course organisation and student engagement

To facilitate class discussion assigned weekly readings are to be read ahead of class lectures. Attendance during class periods, constructive participation and tolerance of the views of others are expected. Students are responsible for discussion. Class time will

be devoted to brief presentation of key points from the material assigned and to class discussion. In general, all graded work will be assessed on the basis of A) care in the explanation of key points, B) quality of development of points presented, C) clarity, neatness and organisation of points.

Tips for best performances

- Do readings ahead of class periods, and do weekly assignments.
- Come to class, and constructively participate in class discussion.
- Speak to the instructor if failing to understand the material.

Graded student activities

1. Participation, including weekly assignments	10%
2. Experiential group project and presentation	20%
3. Mid term test	30%
4. Final take home exam	40%

1. Participation. Assessed on the basis of a) regular attendance b) constructive participation in class discussion c) weekly assignments based on the course readings and analysis of the issues under discussion. Class attendance will be taken, and is particularly encouraged in the case of guest speakers (justified absences on those days should be discussed with the instructor ahead of time).

Weekly response assignments

You are expected to write up a brief response to a question regarding each week's reading to help you engage with the material and concepts before the lecture. Responses should be brief (normally about one paragraph suffices) and handed in on the first day of class every week (usually Tuesdays). Your responses should be in your own words and not be copied from the textbook or other texts.

At the head of the page please state, in this order, a) your last and first name (e.g. JONES, Peter), b) the date assignments due (e.g. 9 January 2018), c) the particular readings discussed (e.g. Singer and Taylor). Feedback will be given on the first set of assignments and occasionally thereafter (dependent on availability of TA support). At the end of the semester the total of the assignments minus the two with the lowest grades will be graded on a pass or fail basis.

2. Experiential group project. This group project is to provide experiential context for students to develop skills in applying ethical theories to real world settings. (This is not an exercise in research processes and involves no human subjects.) Students are expected to visit monuments and natural sites related to course

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Further information regarding Uvic policies on human rights, equity, discrimination and harassment are located in the Uvic calendar (p. 15). If you have any particular concerns in our course please do not hesitate to contact me.

Counseling Services

Many, if not most, students experience some difficulties with their mental health during their years as undergraduate students. Make sure you are familiar with Uvic [Counseling Services](#), which is an excellent resource you have at your disposal.

28 Jan 3 Feb Rachels,