

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY COURSE OUTLINE

TERM: Fall 2015

COURSE NO: PHIL 306

INSTRUCTOR:

COURSE NAME: Family Ethics

OFFICE:

LOCAL: SECTION NO:

E-MAIL:

COURSE FORMAT: Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities for a 15 week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: 45 credits of 100-level or higher coursework including 6 credits of 100- or 200-level PHIL courses.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: That the student develop the ability to identify and critically analyze moral problems in the field of family ethics, and clarify her/his own values in relation to specific ethical issues that arise in that field.

SPECIFIC AIMS: That the student gain a philosophical perspective (a) on topics such as marriage, monogamy, divorce, adultery, and sexual orientation and how they relate to what might be considered optimal family structure, (b) on the ethics of bearing children, the obligations and rights involved in parenting in juxtaposition to the rights of the child and (c) on the duties of grown children to their parents.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Houlgate, Laurence D. *Morals, Marriage, and Parenthood: An Introduction to Family Ethics*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 1999.

COURSE CONTENT

Week 1: Introduction

What is Family Ethics?

Week 2: The Nature the Family

Goode, William. *Defining the Family: A matter of More of Less*.

Macklin, Ruth. *Our Understanding of the Family*.

Demos, John. *Family Life in seventh Century Massachusetts*

Gottlieb, Beatrice. *The Emotional Significance of the Family*.

Quiz 1

Week 3: Marriage, Monogamy, and Sexual Preference

Simmons, John A. *Locke on Rights and the Family*.

Herman, Barbara. *Kant on Sex and Marriage*.

Bayles, Michael D. *In Defense of Monogamous Marriage*.

Wilson, James Q. *Against Homosexual Marriage*.

Mohr, Richard D. *The Case for Gay Marriage*.

Quiz 2

Week 4: Criticism of traditional Marriage and Family

Plato. *A Proposal to Abolish the Private Family*.

Aristotle. *On Plato's Proposal*.

Engels, Friedrich. *The Origins of Monogamous Marriage and the Patriarchal Family*.

Okin, Susan Moller. *Marriage and the Unjust Treatment of Women*.

Quiz 3

Week 5: Nontraditional Families and Family Values

Donagan, Alan. *The Permissible Variety of Family Structure*.

Popenoe, David. *Family Decline in America*.

Firestone, Shulamith. *An Alternative to the Family*.

Smith, Patricia. *Are Family Values Enduring Values?*

Quiz 4

Week 6 TBA**Week 7: Adultery and Divorce**

Russell, Bertrand. *Marriage, Adultery and Divorce*.

Wasserstrom, Richard. *Is Adultery Immoral?*

Martin, Mike W. *Love's Constancy*.

Houlgate Laurence D. *Children and the Ethics of Divorce*.

Quiz 5

Week 8: Family violence

Jackson, Linda. *Marital Rape: A Higher Standard is in Order*.

hooks, bell. *Violence in Intimate Relationships*.

Bell, Linda A. *Violence Against women Protected by Privacy*.

Archard, David. *Child Abuse and Family Privacy*.

Fetzer, Philip. *Child Abuse: A Multicultural Perspective*.

Quiz 6

Week 9: The Ethics of Creating a Family

Anscombe, G.E. M. *Why Have Children*.

Steinbock, Bonnie and Ron McClamrock. *When is Birth Unfair to the Child?*

Floyd, Sherry L and David Pomerantz. *Is there a Natural Right to Have Children?*

LaFollete, Hugh. *Licensing Parents*.

Jecker, Nancy. *Conceiving a Child to Save a Child: Reproductive and Filial Ethics*.

Quiz 7

First Paper Due on a Topic from Week 2-7**Week 10: Parental Power and the Rights of Children**

Cohen, Howard: *Children's Rights and Borrowed Capacities*.

Schoeman, Ferdinand. *Rights of Children, Rights of Parents, and the Moral Basis of the Family*.

Brennan, Samantha and Robert Noggle: *The Moral Status of Children: Children's Rights, Parents' Rights and Family Justice*.

Quiz 8

Week 11: The Ethics of Childrearing

Ruddick, William. *Parenthood: Three Concepts and a Principle*

Churchill, Paul R. *The Obligation of Parents to Raise their Children as Altruists*

Hoekema, David. *Trust and Punishment in the Family*.

Quiz 9

Week 12 TBA

Week 13 : Duties of Grown Children to their Parents.

Locke, John. *The Perpetual Obligation of Honor One's Parents*.

English, Jane. *What do Grown Children Owe Their Parents?*

Narveson, Jan. *What Do We Really Owe Our Parents, and Why?*

Quiz 10

Weeks 14-15: FINAL EXAM PERIOD

EVALUATION PROFILE

Quizzes: $[(6 \times 5 = 30) + (3 \times 10 = 30)] = 60$ marks. The lowest mark of 10 quizzes will be dropped; the three top highest marks will be doubled.

Essays: $2 \times 15 = 30$.

Individual summary: 10

GRADING PROFILE

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|-----------|----------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|----------|---------------|
| A+ | 90-100% | B+ | 77-79% | C+ | 67-69% | D | 50-59% |
| A | 85-89% | B | 73-76% | C | 63-66% | F | 0-49% |
| A- | 80-84% | B- | 70-72% | C- | 60-62% | | |

ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be 10 quizzes altogether; the lowest mark of 10 quizzes will be dropped, the top 3 highest marks will be doubled. **Note: absolutely no make-up quizzes will be given for any reason.** There will be two 5-part essays **in which significant (at least 3) correct (MLA) referencing will be expected.** These two essays will be worth 15 marks each for a total of 30 marks. There will be one individual or group presentation on the last day that should last no longer than 3 minutes/person. This presentation should focus on an analysis of what readings and/or experiences the individual (or group) found most “mind-altering” during the term, as well as what questions they believe need further investigation. A one-two page summary of how individual (or group) thinking has been altered as a result of this term-long philosophical foray into Family Ethics should be submitted. This assignment will be worth 10 marks.

OPERATIONAL DETAILS

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Plagiarism

Intentional plagiarism (or forging of the instructor's initials) will result in zero for this course. Papers must be **unique** to this course.

"I" Grade

Not normally given.

4th Hour

E-mail contact, student tutorials, as well as extended discussion, as necessary.

English Usage

Essays containing severe grammatical problems will be penalized. If the student anticipates problems, s/he should seek help from the Writing Centre *before* handing in assignments.

Typing

All drafts and submitted work *must be typed*. *No excuses for untyped essays will be accepted.*

ATTENDANCE, PUNCTUALITY, LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance: Regular attendance is expected. If you are absent, YOU are responsible for the material covered in class during your absence. This includes not only the specific material covered, but, as well, various announcements, and information with regard to times of tests and deadlines for assignments. Students who undertake this course are considered to have consented to a contract to attend class **punctually** unless dire circumstances prevail. Please note that if students leave while discussions are in progress, it is extremely disruptive and hence disrespectful of both your classmates and instructor. Students are therefore asked to attend to personal needs **before** coming to class. **Students will not be excused for any reason during quizzes.** One mark per day will be subtracted from late assignments (this includes weekends).

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Please familiarize yourself with the emergency procedures posted beside the door of the classroom.

OFFICE HOURS. TBA