

COURSE OUTLINE		
TERM: Fall 2018	COURSE NO: PHIL 101	
INSTRUCTOR:	COURSE TITLE: Introductory Philosophy: Ethics	
OFFICE: LOCAL: E-MAIL: @capilanou.ca	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 3.0
OFFICE HOURS:		
COURSE WEBSITE:		

Capilano University acknowledges with respect the Lil'wat, Musqueam, Squamish, Sechelt, and Tsleil-Waututh people on whose territories our campuses are located.

COURSE PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES

None

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.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

An introduction to both ethical theory and applied ethics. The emphasis of the course varies among instructors, with all focusing to some extent on improving moral reasoning. The course covers the following issues: (a) What makes right actions right and wrong actions wrong? Utilitarianism, Kantianism, and virtue ethics are usually considered. (b) Why should I be moral, rather than merely self-interested? (c) In what sense, if any, are moral values objective? (d) If any of the following are wrong, what makes them wrong: private wealth, deception, capital punishment, euthanasia, assisted-suicide, meat-eating, abortion, cloning, polygamy, etc? (e) What are our moral obligations to children, the frail and elderly, future generations, and other species?

COURSE NOTE

PHIL 101 is an approved Self and Society course for Cap Core requirements.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND/OR RESOURCES

Russ Shafer-Landau, *The Ethical Life. OUP, 4th edition. 2018.*

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Explain issues and arguments central to the study of ethics such as relativism, objectivism, and theories of right and wrong, as well as issues and arguments related to practical matters such as animal rights, genetic engineering, medical aid in dying, abortion, terrorism, the environment, and workplace ethics.
- Assess arguments for and against various positions on the above topics.

- Explain the moral point of view as distinct from the prudential, aesthetic, legal, scientific, and political points of view, and identify cases in which the moral point of view is, or is not, called for.
- Defend their own conclusions clearly and rationally.

Students who complete this Self & Society course will be able to do the following:

- Identify potential root causes of local/global problems and how they affect local/global cultures, economies, politics, and policies.
- Assess and evaluate individual and collective responsibilities within a diverse and interconnected global society.
- Synthesize a range of differing community perspectives on ethics and justice and explain how these perspectives can inform structural change.
- Explain how contexts (e.g. cultural, historical, colonial, economic, technological) shape identity formation and social structures.

COURSE CONTENT

Topics and required readings are listed below. Recommended additional readings will be suggested in class each week.

Weeks

1. Introduction to meta-ethics, normative ethics, and applied ethics
2. Topic: Is relativism the best meta-ethical view?
Required reading: Harry Gensler, "Cultural Relativism."
Also recommended: David Enoch, "Why I Am an Objectivist About Ethics."
3. Topic: Is Jean Kazez correct about objective goods?
Required reading: Jean Kazez, "Necessities."
Also recommended: Susan Wolf, Happiness and Meaning: Two aspects of the Good Life."
4. Topic: Is Utilitarianism the best normative view?
Required reading: J.J.C. Smart, "Extreme and Restricted Utilitarianism."
Also recommended: Immanuel Kant, "The Good Will and the Categorical Imperative."
Also recommended: Aristotle, "Nichomachean Ethics."
5. Topic: Is buying factory-farmed meat wrong?
Required reading: Alastair Norcross, "Puppies, Pigs, and People...."
Also recommended: R.G. Frey, "Moral Standing, the Value of Lives, and Speciesism."
6. Topic: When is abortion morally permissible?
Required: Don Marquis, "Why Abortion is Immoral"
Also recommended: Judith Jarvis Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion."
7. Topic: Is the death penalty always immoral?
Required: Stephen Nathanson, "An Eye for an Eye?"
8. Topic: Medical assistance in dying – what should the law permit?
Required: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/medical-assistance-dying.html>
Required: Gillian Bennett, "Death at Noon."
9. Topic: Is terrorism ever justified?
Required: Michael Walzer, "Terrorism: A Critique of Excuses."
10. Topic: Who has the right to own a gun?
Required: Jeff McMahan, "Why Gun 'Control' is Not Enough."

- Required: Michael Huemer, "Is There a Right to Own a Gun?"
11. Topic: Should there be a law against large inheritances?
Required: D.W. Haslitt, "Is Inheritance Justified?"
12. Topic: Is it our moral duty to give the money we spend on unnecessary luxuries to effective charities?
Required: Peter Singer, The Logic of Effective Altruism, Boston Review (July 2015)
<http://bostonreview.net/forum/peter-singer-logic-effective-altruism>
Required: Jan Narveson, "Feeding the Hungry."
13. Topic: Can a good moral case be made for "designer babies"?
Required reading: Julian Savulescu, "Genetic Interventions and the Ethics of Enhancement of Human Beings"
14. Exam period
15. Exam period

EVALUATION PROFILE

• Small-group work	0-20%	(graded each week)
• Tests	30-60%*	(graded bi-weekly)
• Essay writing	20-40%*	
• Participation	10%	
Total	100%	

* Note: No single evaluation component will be worth more than 35%.

Small-group work consists of both in-class writing and debates. Tests consist of short-answer comprehension questions. Essay writing consists of at least 5 pages single spaced. Participation includes attendance, full cooperation with operational details, and good contributions to class discussions.

GRADING PROFILE

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	

Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete "I" are assigned only in exceptional circumstances when a student requests extra time to complete their coursework. Such agreements are made only at the request of the student, who is responsible to determine from the instructor the outstanding requirements of the course.

Late Assignments

Not accepted.

Missed Exams/Quizzes/Labs etc.

Make-up exams, quizzes and/or tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises. Some missed labs or other activities may not be able to be accommodated. Please consult with your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and associated activities.

English Usage

Students are expected to proofread all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Instructors may deduct marks for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

Electronic Devices

Students may use electronic devices during class for note-taking only.

On-line Communication

Outside of the classroom, instructors will (if necessary) communicate with students using either their official Capilano University email or Moodle; please check both regularly. Official communication between Capilano University and students is delivered to students' Capilano University email addresses only.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONAL DETAILS**Tools for Success**

Many services are available to support student success for Capilano University students. A central navigation point for all services can be found at: <http://www.capilanou.ca/services/>

Capilano University Security: download the [CapU Mobile Safety App](#)

Policy Statement (S2009-06)

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

Academic Integrity (S2017-05)

Any instance of academic dishonesty or breach of the standards of academic integrity is serious and students will be held accountable for their actions, whether acting alone or in a group. See policy S2017-05 for more information: <http://www.capilanou.ca/about/governance/policies/Policies/>

Violations of academic integrity, including dishonesty in assignments, examinations, or other academic performances, are prohibited and will be handled in accordance with the Student Academic Integrity Procedures.

Academic dishonesty is any act that breaches one or more of the principles of academic integrity. Acts of academic dishonesty may include but are not limited to the following types:

Cheating: Using or providing unauthorized aids, assistance or materials while preparing or completing assessments, or when completing practical work (in clinical, practicum, or lab settings), including but not limited to the following:

- Copying or attempting to copy the work of another during an assessment;
- Communicating work to another student during an examination;
- Using unauthorized aids, notes, or electronic devices or means during an examination;
- Unauthorized possession of an assessment or answer key; and/or,
- Submitting of a substantially similar assessment by two or more students, except in the case where such submission is specifically authorized by the instructor.

Fraud: Creation or use of falsified documents.

Misuse or misrepresentation of sources: Presenting source material in such a way as to distort its original purpose or implication(s); misattributing words, ideas, etc. to someone other than the original source; misrepresenting or manipulating research findings or data; and/or suppressing aspects of findings or data in order to present conclusions in a light other than the research, taken as a whole, would support.

Plagiarism: Presenting or submitting, as one's own work, the research, words, ideas, artistic imagery, arguments, calculations, illustrations, or diagrams of another person or persons without explicit or accurate citation or credit.

Self-Plagiarism: Submitting one's own work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructors, or re-submitting work, in whole or in part, for which credit has already been granted without permission of the instructors.

Prohibited Conduct: The following are examples of other conduct specifically prohibited:

- Taking unauthorized possession of the work of another student (for example, intercepting and removing such work from a photocopier or printer, or collecting the graded work of another student from a stack of papers);
- Falsifying one's own and/or other students' attendance in a course;
- Impersonating or allowing the impersonation of an individual;
- Modifying a graded assessment then submitting it for re-grading; or,
- Assisting or attempting to assist another person to commit any breach of academic integrity.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

All Members of the University Community have the right to work, teach and study in an environment that is free from all forms of sexual violence and misconduct. Policy B401 defines sexual assault as follows:

Sexual assault is any form of sexual contact that occurs without ongoing and freely given consent, including the threat of sexual contact without consent. Sexual assault can be committed by a stranger, someone known to the survivor or an intimate partner.

Safety and security at the University are a priority and any form of sexual violence and misconduct will not be tolerated or condoned. The University expects all Students and Members of the University Community to abide by all laws and University policies, including [B.401 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy](#) and [B.401.1 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Procedure](#).

Emergencies: Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency policies where appropriate and the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.