

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**  
**Undergraduate Course Outline 2011-2012**

**Philosophy 2070E: Ethics and Society**  
**Previously Philosophy 142**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Fall/Winter Term 2011-2012</b><br><b>Thursdays, 7:00-9:00 pm</b><br><b>TC-343</b> | <b>Instructor: Nicholas Fawcett</b><br><b>StH 1139, Wednesdays 1:00-3:00</b><br><b>wwfawcet@uwo.ca</b> |
|--|--|

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

One of the central problems of philosophy, and indeed for humanity in general, is how individuals should interact with others. Both moral and political systems have been developed in response to this problem, and this course will serve as an introduction to both. In this course, many of the core theories and problems that arise in moral and political philosophy will be engaged by examining a selection of important texts from the history of these disciplines. In addition, a significant portion of the course is devoted to investigating how these theories are applied in our society today, covering topics such as animal rights, the war on drugs, abortion, world poverty, terrorism, torture, euthanasia, the naturalness of homosexuality, discrimination, the use of quotas, and the death penalty. In the first half of the course we will focus on ethical theories and questions, with the second term devoted to political matters, with all classes striving to achieve a balance between lecture and discussion.

**TEXTS**

Fawcett, Nicholas. *Ethics and Society: Philosophy 2070E*. (McGraw Hill: Custom Course Package, 2011)

**REQUIREMENTS**

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Four Essays (5 pages each) | 50% |
| Midterm Exam               | 25% |
| Final Exam                 | 25% |

**AUDIT**

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/proceduresappeals.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.