

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

**Philosophy 2701E (001): Modes of Normative Reasoning
Previously Philosophy 282E (001)**

Fall and Winter Terms, 2011-2012 M 3:30-5:30 & W 3:30-4:30 Talbot College, Room 343 Office Hours: M & W 2:30-3:30	Instructor: Barry Hoffmaster 4137 Stevenson Hall 661-2111 x85745 choffmas@uwo.ca
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Various methods of making decisions in ethics, law, and bioethics will be examined to see how they can illuminate our understanding of these three areas and how helpful they are in solving practical normative problems. The approaches to be studied include the application of moral theories and principles (so-called “applied ethics”), casuistry, interpretation, narratives, pragmatism, and contextualism.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course has three principal objectives:

- 1) To give students an understanding of the different approaches to decision making that are used in ethics, law, and bioethics and the implications these approaches have for our conceptions of these domains;
- 2) To improve students’ comprehension and critical reading skills; and
- 3) To enhance students’ capacities to develop and defend their own positions on issues and to present them in clear, organized, well argued, and well written essays.

TEXTS

Two Custom Course Material packages available from InPrint (one for each term)

REQUIREMENTS

Two essays on assigned topics, each worth 30% of the mark (one due in each term)

A registrar-scheduled December exam (essay format), worth 20% of the mark

A registrar-scheduled final exam (essay format), worth 20% of the mark

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 cannot be used as grounds of appeal.