

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2010-2011**

**Philosophy 2701E (650): Modes of Normative Reasoning
Previously Philosophy 282E (001)**

**Summer Term, 2011
Distance Studies**

**Instructor: Valerie Racine
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Approaches to ethical decision making will be examined to see how they can assist practical ethical reasoning and enhance our understanding of morality. Approaches to be studied include: casuistry, interpretation, reflective equilibrium, the construction of narratives, and the application of moral theory to real life situations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 1) To give students an understanding of the different approaches to decision making that are used in moral reasoning and the implications these approaches have for our conceptions of morality;
- 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

- Cohen, Stephen. *The Nature of Moral Reasoning: The Framework and Activities of Ethical Deliberation, Argument and Decision-Making*. OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, Oxford, UK, 2004. ISBN: 0 19 551479 3
- Tittle, Peg. *What If... Collected Thought Experiments in Philosophy*. PEARSON LONGMAN, New York, NY, 2005. ISBN: 0-321-20278-3
- A Custom Course Material Package (available at InPrint, lower level of the UCC)

REQUIREMENTS

- 3 Essays: 45% (15% for each essay; approx. 1500 words)
 - Unit Assignments: 20% (10 Posted Answers to Discussion Questions & Participation in Discussion)
 - Final Exam: 35% (Short Answer 15%; Essay: 20%)
- (see "Course Requirements" document on WebCT for more details)

Late Paper Policy:

A penalty of 3% of the assignment grade will be deducted for each day late, including each day of the weekend. You have a maximum of 10 days after the due date to hand in a late paper, after which late papers will NOT be accepted.

Extensions are granted only on medical or compassionate grounds with the appropriate documentation. For further detail, see department policies below.

Turnitin.com:

Your written work must be submitted **both** electronically to your instructor and to turnitin.com on the due date.

Distance Studies and WebCT:

Students are advised to log onto the Distance Website at www.registrar.uwo.ca/infoservices/distance.cfm. Here, you will find the Student Handbook, online instructions, examination schedules, instructor information, and links to your UWO email and WebCT.

This course is conducted almost exclusively on WebCT. All lectures, discussion questions, readings, and essay questions are posted there. If you are experiencing problems with WebCT, please direct them to the ITS Help Desk at (519) 661-3800. Troubleshooting information is also available online. A list of common problems and solutions are available at <http://webct.uwo.ca/commonProblems.html> Students should also ensure their computer is properly prepared at <http://webct.uwo.ca/checkMyBrowser.html>.

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/policies.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.