

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

**Philosophy 2700F: Introduction to Ethics and Value Theory
Previously Philosophy 201**

**Summer Term 2011
Distance Studies (May 9- July 29 2011)
(Exam period: August 2-5 2011)**

**Instructor: Angel Petropanagos
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Course description:

This on-line course will introduce you to several fundamental issues in ethical theory, both at the normative and the meta-ethical level. In moral philosophy we attempt to understand moral concepts and justify moral principles and theories. We will critically evaluate the views in classical and contemporary sources. Questions to be addressed include: Why be moral? Are there objective moral facts or is morality all relative? What makes right acts right? Are there any actions that are wrong no matter what the consequences? What, if anything, is intrinsically good? What is the connection between morality and the good life?

We'll be covering a range of topics. The emphasis will be on the validity and soundness of the philosophical arguments given for the views under discussion, and on developing your own views about the subject matter in light of what you have learned. You will be evaluated on your ability to reconstruct arguments accurately, to explain relevant terms clearly, to provide additional independent, coherent and reasoned justification for the views you express, as well as to assess critically the arguments of the philosophers that we study.

Course objectives:

1. To help you develop your philosophical skills, that is, skills of reasoning and critical thinking, and argument analysis (e.g. recognizing premises, conclusions), through careful work with the readings, on-line discussions, and writing assignments.
2. To encourage an awareness of the relevance of moral philosophy to everyday life by familiarizing you with a variety of moral topics, and giving you a way to think about morality that you can use to frame any moral issue that may confront you.
3. To encourage independent thinking and class participation through assignments, and on-line discussions.
4. To improve your scholarly skills through research, writing, and interaction with others in the class.

TEXTS

- *Moral Philosophy: A Reader*, Fourth edition, edited by Louis Pojman and Peter Tramel (Hackett, 2009), available from the UWO Bookstore.
- Course pack is available from Inprint, lower level of the UCC.

REQUIREMENTS

(1) Two short essays (each worth 20% and approximately 4 pages or 1000 words) due June 17th (the end of week 6) and July 29th (the end of week 12).

Please Note: Both essays must be submitted electronically to apetrop2@uwo.ca, and to Turnitin.com (see below). No hard copies are required. When submitting a paper via email, please make sure to use a relevant title in the subject line (such as, for example, 'Essay for Phil 2700').

(2) Three short topic analyses (each worth 5% and approximately 150- 200 words). Details to be explained on WebCT.

Please Note: Each topic analysis is due at the end of the week for that particular topic/ reading (due by Sunday at 11:59 pm). Only one topic analysis per week may be submitted.

(3) Participation in on-line discussions on the course website (minimum of 5 postings over the 12 week course, 10%). Details to be explained on WebCT.

Please Note: Each on-line discussion posting must be made on the readings assigned for that week (due by Sunday at 11:59 pm) and no more than one posting per week will be marked. Discussion postings written on the same issue as your topic analyses assignment will not be marked or count towards your 5 discussion postings.

(3) Final examination (3 hours, 35%) to be scheduled during the exam period (August 2-5 2011)

Late paper policy:

Late papers will be penalized *three* percent per day, including each day of the weekend, for one week. After one week, please contact the instructor. 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. We'll do a practice submission to turnitin.com well before the first paper is due to make sure that everyone is comfortable with the system.

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://www.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 ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.