

**DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
WESTERN UNIVERSITY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2015-2016**

Philosophy 2720G: The Ethics of Professional Relationships

**Winter Term, 2016
Tu 9:30-11:30 & Th 9:30-10:30
TC 309
Office Hours: Tu 12:30-1:30 &
Th 10:30-11:30 & by appointment**

**Instructor: Barry Hoffmaster
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the moral and institutional foundations of professional ethics and an array of specific ethical issues that arise for professionals and the people they serve. Questions to be considered include: What is a profession? What is professional ethics, and how is professional ethics related to philosophical moral theories? What are the qualities of a good professional? What special obligations do professionals have to their clients, to their professions, and to society? May professionals refuse to provide services when doing so would violate their personal moral convictions? What are the limits of confidentiality? How should the mistakes of professionals be handled? How does being a professional affect the kind of person one becomes?

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course has three principal objectives:

- 1) To give students an understanding of the nature of a profession, what it means to be a professional, and the conception of morality that is needed for professional ethics and resolving the practical moral problems that arise in professions;
- 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.

TEXT

A Custom Course Book available from the Book Store.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Two essays on assigned topics
Length: Maximum limit of 1500 words
Value: Each essay is worth 30% of the course mark

2. A final exam, scheduled by the Office of the Registrar
Length: 2 hours
Format: Short-answer questions and essay questions
Value: Worth 40% of the course 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 are 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 ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

Incompletes are granted at the <i>exclusive</i> discretion of the Undergraduate Program Chair, and only on the basis of documented medical or compassionate grounds. If, during the course, you envisage any difficulty completing all the required work by the completion deadline, consult immediately with the instructor <i>and</i> the Undergraduate Program Chair
