

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2018-19

Philosophy 2720G: Ethics of Professional Relationships

W 12:30-2:30; F 12:30-1:30
FIMS Nursing Building (FNB) 1220

Instructor: Prof. Carolyn McLeod Office: 4133 Stevenson Hall Email: cmcleod2@uwo.ca Office Hours: W. 3-4pm; Th. 10-11am	Graduate TA and Co-Instructor: Austin Horn Office: 2132 Stevenson Hall Email: ahorn5@uwo.ca Office Hours: TBA
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Many students at Western hope to become some kind of professional, such as a lawyer, doctor, teacher, engineer, or journalist. But what does it mean to be a *professional*? What does it mean to have a *profession* as opposed to a job that isn't a profession? Are there special privileges but also duties that go along with being a professional? Are the relationships that professionals have with the people who use their services and depend on them unique in some way? These are the sorts of questions we will ask in this course. We will also look at more specific topics in professional ethics, such as client or patient confidentiality, the nature and importance of professional integrity, whether professionals should heed their conscience when it conflicts with their professional duties, and whistleblowing. Overall, the course should prepare students well for grappling with the ethical demands of professional life.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students will be able to,

- Discuss what it means to be a professional or part of a profession, and what is distinctive about professional-client (or patient) relationships
- Describe what many philosophers believe to be the special moral duties of professionals
- Think critically about core topics in professional ethics and appreciate their complexity
- Provide ethical analyses of actual cases involving professionals

In addition, through their assignments (see below under Course Evaluation), students will develop or hone the following skills:

- Critical analysis and writing (through the online forum, quizzes, take-home assignment, and essays)

- Thoughtful engagement with others on controversial topics (through the online forum and class discussion)
- Confident public speaking (through class discussion, which will occur in large and small groups)
- Synthesis and consolidation of significant amounts of material (through the quizzes, taker-home assignment and papers)

COURSE WEBSITE

All course information, including assignments, will be posted on our OWL site at <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>.

REQUIRED READINGS

- Martin, C., W. Vaught, and R. C. Solomon. *Ethics Across the Professions: A Reader for Professional Ethics*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017. 2nd edition. (Available at The Bookstore at Western)
- Some online readings available on our OWL site

COURSE EVALUATION

1. Participation: 10%
2. In-class quizzes and one take-home assignment: 45%
3. Two essays: 45%

Details about assignments is available on our OWL website under Resources and will be provided in class.

AUDIT

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

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES

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 ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

PLAGIARISM CHECKING

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>
Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login> Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>
Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.