

PHIL 2065G: EVIL
W 6-9 p.m.; Talbot College 303



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Office hours: 4:30-5:30 p.m., Quotes Café (Weldon Library)

Course Description:

The Holocaust, the Rwandan genocide, the events of 9/11, the actions of serial killers describe these events and their

emphasize the severity of their badness and wrongness. But what is evil? What distinguishes it from ordinary wrongs? Is evil a kind of chaos and disorder, a privation of goodness, or even a lack of originality? Can evil be done only by humans, or are animals and natural forces capable of evil as well? What makes a person evil, and what is the relationship between evil actions and evil characters? Are some evils forgivable, while others are not? Is evil a useful moral concept or is it an outdated one that should give way to other forms of analysis?

This course explore evil as a philosophical concept, drawing on a rich array of historical, theological, literary, dramatic, and psychological literature. We will begin by considering ept through Western thought beginning with the Egyptians. We will then explore varieties of evil, including wickedness, sin, cruelty, vice, aggression, and malevolence. We will then turn to as well as possible solutions to it. The course will conclude with a look at the political and criminal dimensions of evil. Throughout the course, we will consider evil from the perspective of both the perpetrator (the evil-doer) and the victim (the sufferer).

Course objectives:

documentation is required for papers submitted more than one week past the due date and for missed exams. Such documentation must be submitted directly to your home Faculty office

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices:

Studies consistently show that the availability of a mobile phone and/or Internet connection during class is disruptive to a student and negatively effects grades (for example). Also, using these devices can be distracting to others, constituting a form of harm to others in the classroom.

For this reason, the use of electronic devices such as laptops, mobile phones, Ipads, etc. is discouraged but not prohibited. ***PowerPoint slides, and review/summary notes will not be made available and so students are strongly encouraged to take a good set of notes.***

Policy on 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: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Support Services:

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.

1. Statement on Use of Plagiarism Software:

Turnitin.com: It is the policy of the Department of Philosophy that all written work for this course must be submitted through Turnitin.com on Owl. As such, essays must be submitted electronically to Turnitin.com via the Owl course site. Hard copies will not be accepted. Essays will be returned electronically, with an electronic set of comments using references must be in APA or MLA style.

Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Additional Links:

Students may also find useful information on the following sites:
Registrarial Services (<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>)
Student Support Services (<http://westernusc.ca/services/>)