

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Philosophy 2700F (650): Introduction to Ethics and Value Theory
Course Outline Summer 2016 Distance Studies

Instructor: Dr. Ryan Robb
Office: Stevenson Hall, room 4126
Office Hours: by appointment

OBJECTIVES

This course seeks to achieve two goals. The first, and most important, is to help students identify and distinguish between good and bad arguments. Assessing the quality of arguments is the most fundamental skill a philosopher must possess, a skill which when developed allows philosophers to critically engage the many disparate views they encounter in their daily lives, and helps them become less prone to error when making arguments of their own. Students will improve their ability to determine what it is that makes the set of reasons that support the conclusions of one argument more compelling than those presented in competing arguments, and to articulate their assessments in the writing assignments for the course.

The second goal of this course is to explore the ways in which the aforementioned philosophical skill (identifying and producing good arguments) has been applied by scholars to human actions and the subsequent accounts of responsibility it is claimed humans bear for their actions. The arguments surveyed include attempts to answer the following questions: Do humans have universal and objective ethical/moral duties

Late penalty policy:

The 250 - 500 word discussion posts are subject to a 1 out of 6

Additional Links :

Registrarial Services (<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>)

Student Support Services (<http://westernusc.ca/services/>)

Distance Studies and OWLSakai:

Students are advised to log onto the Distance Website at http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/applying/distance_studies/. Here you will find the Student Handbook, online instructions, examination schedules, instructor information, and a link to OWL.

This course is conducted almost exclusively using OWLSakai (though I am available for in person meetings with those in and around the London area). All lectures, discussion questions, readings, and essay questions are posted there. If you are experiencing problems with OWLSakai, please direct them to the ITS Help Desk at (519) 661-3800.

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.