

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**  
**Undergraduate Course Outline 2020-21**

**Phil 2700F (001):**  
**An Introduction to Ethics and Value Theory**

**DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces students to the attempts by scholars to understand whether, and the degree to which, humans can/should be held responsible for their actions. Do humans have ethical duties and responsibilities toward one another or themselves? If so, what are the foundations of those ethical duties, and what do they demand? Our survey of the scholarly responses to these questions will be separated in two parts: First a review of prominent positions on meta-ethics, followed by a survey of the five dominant ethical theories.

**TEXTS**

Wilfrid J. Waluchow, *The Dimensions of Ethics; An Introduction to Ethical Theory*. (Broadview Press, 2003).

H. Geirsson and M.R. Holmgren, *Ethical Theory: A Concise Anthology*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Broadview Press, 2018)

## **LATE PENALTIES**

Essays – An essay will be considered late if it is not submitted to OWL by the time specified on the assignment description. Late essays will be penalized at a rate of **five** percentage points per day (weekends included), to a maximum of 10 days (or 50%), at which point a grade of 0 will be entered.

Exams – The three exams will all take place using the ‘Tests and Quizzes’ function on OWL. If an exam is only partially completed by the time specified, the completed portion will be graded, and the incomplete portion will receive 0. If an exam is missed, a grade of 0 will automatically be recorded.

## **DUE DATES**

Essays – 1. Friday Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:55 p.m.  
2. Friday Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:55 p.m.

Exams – 1. Thursday Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> from 9 a.m. – Tuesday Oct 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:55 p.m.  
2. Thursday Nov 12<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. – Tuesday Nov 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:55 p.m.  
3. December Exam Period, to be scheduled by the Office of the Registrar

## **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 for an appeal~~ cannot be used as grounds-

## **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](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

