

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
Department of Philosophy
Undergraduate Course Outline 2024-25

PHILOSOP 2700F
Introduction to Ethics and Value Theory

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Information including instructor contact details and course location can be found on the course Owl BrightSpace: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A central pillar of the Western ethics is autonomy. A lot of good recent philosophical work in ethics has focused autonomy's connection to consent and sexuality, so this course aims to give the student a background in personal autonomy, and introduce them to criticisms of autonomy as well as reaction to these criticisms in the form of "relational autonomy". These two units will give students the tool box of concepts to deal ethically to think through sexual consent that goes beyond rigid legal definitions, grey areas of consent as well as real world, "non-ideal"

COURSE SCHEDULE

Mon., Sep. 9 - Intro (No readings)

Wed., Sep. 11 – How to read and breakdown an ethical argument – Singer – Famine, Influence and Morality

Mon., Sep. 16 – Metaphors in Ethical arguments – Hardin – Lifeboat Ethics

Wed., Sep. 18 – Kant _ Groundwork section on Autonomy and O'Neill – Simplified Account of Kant's Ethics

Mon., Sep. 23 – Secondary literature on Kant and Autonomy

Wed., Sep. 25 – Work on traditional Autonomy

Mon., Sep. 30 – Day of Truth and Reconciliation

Wed., Oct. 2 – Work on Traditional Autonomy

Mon., Oct. 7 – Criticism of Autonomy (feminist, disability, MacIntyre?)

Wed., Oct. 9 - Criticism of Autonomy (feminist, disability, MacIntyre?)

class. Students may access the OWL Brightspace Learner Support site for assistance: <https://brightspacehelp.uwo.ca/> For IT related issues, they may contact Western Technology Services Helpdesk directly: <https://wts.uwo.ca/helpdesk/>.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES

The Department of Philosophy policies that govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses are available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website <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.

AUDIT

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

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

No aids are permitted for this exam. Electronic devices of any kind (including calculators, cell phones and smart watches) are not permitted.

STATEMENT ON THE USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

"In this course, the use of AI (automatic translation tools, grammar checkers, ChatGPT...) is prohibited. If plagiarism or unauthorized AI use is suspected, the instructor will ask for research notes and/or drafts of assignments after the assignment has been submitted. Students must keep all notes and first drafts until the assignment is returned to them."

Personally, I think the importance of writing your own work is threefold: 1) Writing is not discovering or uncovering fully formed ideas and arguments you already have. Writing itself generates the knowledge, helps us think through an idea. Writing = thinking. 2) Writing allow us to manifest our own point of view, but this can only happen if we work to develop our own "voice". 3) Just as it is going from a novice to an expert in any craft, becoming a writer is a self-transformative experience. I think using ChatGPT and other AI writing tools as a crutch when things get hard robs you of these three learning experiences and so, to that end:

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

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration.pdf

The Student Medical Certificate is available at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

ACADEMIC CONSIDERATION

Students may request academic consideration in cases of extenuating circumstances – that is, personal circumstances beyond the student's control that have a substantial but temporary impact on the student's ability to meet essential academic requirements.

1. Requests for academic consideration are made to the Academic Advising office of Faculty in which the student is registered.
2. Requests for academic consideration include the following components:
 - a. Self-attestation signed by the student;
 - b. Indication of the course(s) and assessment(s) relevant to the request;
 - c. Supporting documentation as relevant

Requests without supporting documentation are limited to one per term per course.

Documentation for medical illness, when required, includes the completion of a [Western Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation, by a health care practitioner. Requests linked to examinations scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during official examination periods as well as practice laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled in the last week of term always require formal supporting documentation.

Western University [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.