

PHIL 1330 920 ETHICS

Instructor: Eugene Vaynberg

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Time: M/W 12:00-3.50pm

Location: TBA

Semester: Summer Session II: June 30 – August 5, 2022

Office Hours: By appointment

Description: In this course we will look at what makes our actions morally right or wrong and how to evaluate difficult moral questions. The first part of the course looks at major views in *normative ethics* – what theory or framework should we use to determine whether an action is morally right or wrong? The second part of the course looks at topics in *applied ethics*, where we try to address some actual moral questions that people might face. For this we will look a handful of contemporary moral problems, including climate change, euthanasia, abortion, and a topic to be chosen by you!

Course Objectives:

- (1) You will gain an appreciation of major moral theories, and a better understanding of the ethical dimensions of contemporary moral issues. You will also gain a better understanding of what philosophy is, and how different questions can be investigated using philosophical tools.
- (2) You will learn to better read and understand academic writing, and to reconstruct arguments. You will also learn to critically evaluate the arguments of others, and to develop and defend your own arguments, both orally and in writing.

Readings: There are no required texts to purchase. All readings will be available through the course website.

Course Requirements:

	Grade	Due Date*
Attendance and Participation	20%	N/A
Argument Reconstruction #1 (1 page)	15%	Friday, July 15
Argument Reconstruction #2 (2 pages)	15%	Friday, July 22
Essay Rough Draft (5 pages)	20%	Sunday, July 31
Essay Final Draft (5 pages)**	30%	TBD

* Due dates are currently tentative and may change prior to start of summer session

** The final draft is an edited version of your rough draft. You will receive extensive comments and suggestions on your rough draft to help you complete the final draft. You do not need to write a completely new paper! Think of the two essay assignments as a single essay split into two submissions.

Course Schedule:

Date	Topic	Reading to be completed before class	Assignments Due
Part 1: Introduction to Moral Philosophy			
7/6	Introduction	None	
7/11	Moral Relativism	Mary Midgley, "Trying Out One's New Sword" David Enoch, "Why I'm an Objectivist about Ethics (And Why You are, Too)"	
Part 2: Normative Ethics			
7/13	Utilitarianism	John Stuart Mill, "Utilitarianism"	Arg. Rec. #1 due Friday 7/15
7/18	Deontology	Andrews Reath, "Contemporary Kantian Ethics"	
Part 3: Applied Ethics			
7/20	Climate Change	Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, "It's Not My Fault: Global Warming and Individual Moral Obligations" Olúfẹ́mi O. Táíwò, "The Green New Deal and the Danger of Climate Colonialism"	Arg. Rec. #2 due Friday 7/22
7/25	Helping the Poor	Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality"	
7/27	Euthanasia	J. David Velleman, "A Right of Self-Termination?"	Rough Draft due Sunday 7/31
8/1	Abortion	Judith Jarvis Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion"	
8/3	Open Choice	TBD based on topic chosen by you. Some possible topics for this open choice include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Animal Rights - Bioethics - Sex Work - War and Terrorism - Prisons and Incarceration - Robot/AI Ethics - Ethics of Social Media - Ethics of Sport - Business Ethics 	Final Draft due TBD