

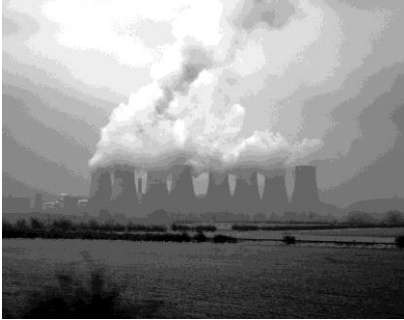
PHI 101: Introduction to Ethics in Society

University of Wisconsin Stevens Point at Wausau, Spring 2020

M/W 9:30-10:45 Room 243

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Office: Room 325 **Office Hours:** M/W 9-9:30 (and by appointment)



Course Description

We will start this course by briefly exploring some basic elements of moral philosophy. This introduction will provide us with the theoretical tools and vocabulary to explore moral arguments related to a number of vexing moral issues facing modern society, such as: genetic enhancement, sexual ethics, just war theory, torture and terrorism, abortion, hunger and world poverty, and environmental ethics.

Essential Questions

- What theoretical principles guide our moral behavior?
- What makes an action right or wrong?
- What factors (theoretical and practical) ground moral disputes?
- Is there hope that we will resolve moral disputes?

Enduring Understandings

You will come to understand that:

- Moral disputes often (but not always) reflect theoretical differences.
- One's moral beliefs should be grounded in reason as well as value.
- Moral problems are often more complex than they first appear.

Knowledge, Skills, and Dispositions

You should be able to:

- Identify and evaluate moral arguments.
- Apply critical thinking skills to other professional and personal pursuits.
- Understand a variety of philosophical concepts, questions, and positions.
- Defend your own philosophical positions against criticisms.
- Read and comprehend challenging philosophical works.
- Appreciate and respect differing points of views.

Required Texts:

- Mark Timmons, *Disputed Moral Issues*, Third Edition. Oxford University Press.
- Additional readings will be posted on Canvas.

Graded assignments will include:

1. Three Exams (20% each – 60% total)
2. Three Essays (10% each – 30% total)
3. Ten Quizzes/ Short Assignments (10% total)

Quizzes/Assignments: Quizzes will be “pop” and can occur anytime during class. Short assignments will be 500-word essays summarizing a reading or responding to a particular question. Essay prompts will be given in class. I promise to give at least (12) quizzes or assignments and only the best (10) will count. As a result of this policy, quizzes cannot be made-up for any reason (including sickness, etc.). Please do not ask if there will be a quiz on any particular day. Writing assignments can be turned in late, but points will be deducted accordingly (one point per day).

Papers: Papers (500-word minimum) will summarize a debate or respond to a particular question. Prompts for papers will be given in class. Papers are to be turned in both electronically and in class. The electronic versions will be checked for “originality” via “Turnitin.com.” Details and suggestions on writing papers, as well as grading criteria, will be distributed in class.

Exams: There will be three exams. Exams will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, short-answer and essay questions. Exams will be, to a limited extent, cumulative. Exam dates are listed on the schedule.

Final grades will be determined on the following scale:

100-93	A	<87-83	B	<77-73	C	<67-63	D
<93-90	A-	<83-80	B-	<73-70	C-	<63-60	D-
<90-87	B+	<80-77	C+	<70-67	D+	<60	F

Late Policy: Quizzes cannot be made-up. Short assignments will be docked 10% off per day late. Exams cannot be made-up without a university approved absence notification (e.g. a note from a health care provider explaining why the student couldn’t be there). Furthermore, you need to contact me immediately in order to reschedule the exam as early as possible. If this condition is not met, you may not be able to re-take the exam.

Academic Honesty: If you commit any acts of academic dishonesty (such as plagiarism on written work or cheating on an exam) you will earn a zero for that work (and possibly other disciplinary actions). Please refer to the Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures for more information

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>

Attendance: Attendance is not mandatory and will not be recorded (with the exception of the first few classes, which is mandatory). With that said, if you do not attend class on a regular basis, you will do poorly. Furthermore, quizzes and assignments will be administered on a regular basis and schedule changes will be announced in class.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement: The ADA is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information about UWSP's policies, see: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyInfo.pdf>.

If you require *classroom and/or exam accommodations*, please register with the **Disability and Assistive Technology Center** and then contact me at the beginning of the course. For more information, please visit the Disability Center's office, located at 604 LRC or their webpage at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/default.aspx>.

Risk Management:

"In the event of a medical emergency, call 911 or use red emergency phone. Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide emergency responders to victim.

In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room without window exposure. See www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures/other/floor-plans for floor plans showing severe weather shelters on campus. Avoid wide-span rooms and buildings.

In the event of a fire alarm, evacuate the building in a calm manner. Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals.

Active Shooter – Run/Escape, Hide, Fight. If trapped hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out and remain quiet. Follow instructions of emergency responders.

See UW-Stevens Point Emergency Management Plan at www.uwsp.edu/rmgt for details on all emergency response at UW-Stevens Point."

Schedule: Please note that the schedule is subject to change. Readings are either located in our text (DMI) or on our Canvas site (CVS).

W Jan 22	Introduction and Syllabus
M Jan 27	Introduction to Ethics A Moral Theory Primer (DMI 2-35)
W Jan 29	Continued
M Feb 3	No class
W Feb 5	Jeremy Bentham, The Principle of Utility (DMI 38-43)
M Feb 10	Immanuel Kant, The Moral Law (DMI 47-55)
	Abortion
W Feb 12	Judith Jarvis Thompson, A Defense of Abortion (DMI 431-438)
M Feb 17	Don Marquis, Why Abortion Is Immoral (DMI 468-473)
	Sexual Ethics
W Feb 19	Paul VI, Vatican Declarations on Some Questions of Sexual Ethics (DMI 89-95) John Corvino, Why Shouldn't Tommy and Jim Have Sex? (DMI 95-101)
M Feb 24	Continued and Review
W Feb 26	EXAM I
	Ethics of War and Terrorism
M Mar 2	Chap 13 Introduction (DMI 564-571) Michael Walzer, Terrorism: A Critique of Excuses (DMI 598-606)
W Mar 4	Andrew Valls, Can Terrorism Be Justified? (DMI 606-617)
M Mar 9	Alan Dershowitz, Should the Ticking Time Bomb Terrorist Be Tortured? (DMI 617-628)
W Mar 11	Marcia Baron, The Ticking Time Bomb Hypothetical (DMI 628-641)
	Spring Break
M Mar 23	Racism J.L.A. Garcia, The Heart of Racism (DMI 235-248)
W Mar 25	Tommie Shelby, Is Racism in the Heart (DMI 248-256)
M Mar 30	TBD and Review
W Apr 1	EXAM II
M Apr 6	World Hunger Garrett Hardin, Lifeboat Ethics (DMI 645-651)
W Apr 8	Peter Singer, The Life You Can Save (DMI 651-665)
	Animal Ethics
M Apr 13	Gaverick Matheny, Utilitarianism and Ethics (DMI 383-392)
W Apr 15	Roger Scruton, The Conscientious Carnivore (CVS)
M Apr 20	Environmental Ethics Aldo Leopold, The Land Ethic (DMI 699-704)
W Apr 22	Gary Varner, Can Animal Rights Activists be Environmentalists? (CVS)
M Apr 27	Food Ethics Movie: <i>Food Inc.</i>
W Apr 29	Continued and Michael Pollan, Omnivore's Dilemma (chaps. 4-7) (CVS)
M May 4	Rachel Laudan, A Plea For Culinary Modernism (CVS)
W May 6	REVIEW

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 13th, 8-10