

PHIL 430.01: Ethics & Society

TR 8:10 –9:30 am, Hamilton Smith 108

CRN 15315; Humanities (Disc)

Instructor: Professor Jen Armstrong

Hamilton Smith 249C

Office Hours (Ham Smith 249C): MTWR @ 11:05-12 & by appointment

Course Description:

This course is designed as an introduction to applied ethics. We will spend the first unit of the course examining several popular approaches to ethical judgment, including Relativism, Libertarianism, and Utilitarianism, exploring how a system of ethics might be justified and to give us a vocabulary for understanding published discussions of ethical issues. Then we will be turning to Application. Each of four application topics will be chosen by students themselves, at the beginning of the application section of the course. Some possible choices:

- Animals (animal rights, experimentation...)
- Artificial Intelligence (self-driving cars, art & AI...)
- Beginning of Life Issues (abortion, human cloning...)
- End of Life Issues (assisted suicide, euthanasia...)
- Equity & Inclusion (affirmative action, reparations...)
- Law & Order (punishment, gun control...)

Required Texts: All course readings will be linked on our Canvas course site on the Modules pages. Please track course assignments by going to Modules, rather than the Canvas 'to-do' list; not everything that it's important for you to see will appear on the latter.

Grading:

Ethical Theory Test (in class, 9/21)	15%
1 Rough Draft (due 10./12)	10%
2 Application Dialogues (due 10/17 and either 11/2, 11/28, or 12/11)	10% each
Weekly Discussion Board Postings (due Thursdays by 8 am) & Responses (due Thursday nights by midnight)	20%
In Class Quizzes, Philosophy Teams, Worksheets, Writing Exercises & Discussion/Debate	20%
Final Exam	15%

*You must write a rough draft and dialogue on the unit 2 application topic and another on your choice of the remaining topics. Information on possible topics and other paper requirements will be accessible from our Canvas Course Site's Module Page.

Additional Information & Resources

Attendance: Your presence and participation is important for everyone's success in this course, so you are expected to attend and have completed the reading and discussion assignments for each class. You are allowed to miss three class meetings without it affecting your participation grade. However, any absence will impact your engagement with content and ideas shared in class, so please be proactive in situations where you will be absent for any reason: get to know your classmates and take good notes so that you can share them with one another when you have to miss a class; make sure you contact the dean of students' office when you anticipate a prolonged absence for any reason (the dean will provide a letter to your professors to let them know that you'll be out of class, without disclosing the reasons); and come to my office hours to ask questions about material you miss.

Classroom Electronics: According to Faculty Senate rules, cell phone, tablet, and laptop use, including text messaging, videotaping, and recording, is not permitted in class unless by instructor permission. Other uses during class (surfing, checking email, engaging in social media, etc.) are not permitted because of the negative effect classroom electronic use has on both your own grade and your classmates' grades. For this class, electronics are permitted for taking notes; using electronics for other purposes is grounds for a student to lose all participation credit for the class in which it is misused.

Technical Support: Technical support is available through the 'Help' link in the bottom left corner of MyCourses. From this menu, students are provided with the following four options:

Search the Canvas Guides: This links you to the guides provided by Canvas which include step by step instructions and videos on how to use the system. These guides are very thorough and easy to search and it is always recommended you look here before contacting support. Report a Problem: This is a link to a web form where you can submit a question or issue to the service desk. These submissions are monitored 24 hours a day 7 days a week and you will typically have a response within 2 hours.

Chat with Canvas Support: The chat function is also available 24/7 and allows for real-time assistance with Canvas questions or issues. This is the recommended method to request assistance within Canvas.

Phone support is also available 24/7 by calling the UNH IT Service Desk at 603-862-4242.

Academic Honesty: University policy states that "academic honesty is a core value at the University of New Hampshire. The members of its academic community both require and expect one another to conduct themselves with integrity. This means that each member will adhere to the principles and rules of the University and pursue academic work in a straightforward and truthful manner, free from deception or fraud." The full citation of the policy on academic honesty can be found in the annual publication, Student Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities: <http://www.unh.edu/vpsas/handbook/academic-honesty>. Your honesty ensures your learning and also contributes to a fair environment for all students. For these reasons, dishonesty or cheating will affect your grade, ranging from immediate failure of an individual assignment to the potential failure of the course as a whole.

Additional Information & Resources

Addressing Disabilities: According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended, 2008), each student with a disability has the right to request services from UNH to accommodate his/her disability. If you are a student with a documented disability or believe you may have a disability that requires accommodations, please contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at 201 Smith Hall. Accommodation letters are created by SAS with the student. Please follow-up with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure timely implementation of the identified accommodations in the letter. Faculty have an obligation to respond once they receive official notice of accommodations from SAS, but are under no obligation to provide retroactive accommodations. We advise you not to provide accommodations to students who are not registered with SAS. For more information refer to Student Accessibility Services or contact SAS at (603) 862-2607, 711 (Relay NH) or SAS.office@unh.edu.

Addressing Emotional or Mental Health Distress: Your academic success and overall mental health are very important. If, during the semester, you find you are experiencing emotional or mental health issues, please contact UNH Psychological & Counseling Services (PACS), 3rd floor, Smith Hall, (603) 862-2090/711 TTY, which provides counseling appointments and other mental health services. If urgent, students may call PACS Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and schedule an Urgent Same-Day Appointment.

Addressing the Needs of Students of all Faiths: In the event that a student needs accommodation for a religious or cultural holiday/observance, that student is encouraged to make that request as early in the semester as possible.

Title IX Confidentiality and Mandatory Reporting: The University of New Hampshire and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students and for the university as a whole. To this end, the university requires faculty members to report to the university's Title IX Coordinator (Donna Marie Sorrentino, (603) 862-2930/1527 TTY) any incidents of sexual violence and harassment shared by students. If you wish to speak to a confidential support service provider who does not have this reporting responsibility because their discussions with clients are subject to legal privilege, you can find a list of resources here. For more information about what happens when you report, how the university considers your requests for confidentiality once a report is made to the Title IX Coordinator, your rights and report options at UNH, including anonymous report options, please visit the student reporting options page.

Center for Academic Success (CFAS): Provides services and resources to support undergraduate students in their pursuit of academic success. (<https://www.unh.edu/cfar>.)