



ORIGINAL COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE:

January 1999

REVISED COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE:

September 2023

COURSE TO BE REVIEWED (six years after UEC approval):

February 2029

Course outline form version: 09/08/2021

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: PHIL 315		Number of Credits: 3 Course credit policy (105)													
Course Full Title: Contemporary Ethical Theory Course Short Title: Contemporary Ethical Theory															
Faculty: Faculty of Humanities		Department (or program if no department): Philosophy													
Calendar Description: Investigates questions in contemporary meta-ethics and normative ethics. Asks how we can live ethically with others and what makes for a good life.															
Prerequisites (or NONE):		PHIL 110 and 6 additional credits of PHIL or POSC. Note: As of January 2024, prerequisites will change to: 45 university-level credits including PHIL 110 and 6 additional credits of PHIL.													
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):		None													
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):															
Antirequisite Courses <i>(Cannot be taken for additional credit.)</i> Former course code/number: Cross-listed with: Equivalent course(s): <i>(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)</i>		Course Details Special Topics course: No <i>(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)</i> Directed Study course: No <i>(See policy 207 for more information.)</i> Grading System: Letter grades Delivery Mode: May be offered in multiple delivery modes Expected frequency: Every other year Maximum enrolment (for information only): 28													
Typical Structure of Instructional Hours <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Tutorials/workshops</td> <td>45</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total hours</td> <td>45</td> </tr> </table>		Tutorials/workshops	45									Total hours	45	Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) PLAR is available for this course.	
Tutorials/workshops	45														
Total hours	45														
Scheduled Laboratory Hours Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		Transfer Credit <i>(See bctransferguide.ca.)</i> Transfer credit already exists: Yes Submit outline for (re)articulation: No <i>(If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)</i>													
Department approval		Date of meeting: November 11, 2022													
Faculty Council approval		Date of meeting: December 9, 2022													
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval		Date of meeting: February 24, 2023													

Learning Outcomes *(These should contribute to students' ability to meet program outcomes and thus Institutional Learning Outcomes.)*

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain major trends in contemporary ethical theory.
2. Accurately describe verbally and in writing core concepts, theories, issues and arguments in meta-ethics and normative ethics.
3. Critically assess core concepts and theories in both meta-ethics and normative ethics.
4. Develop reasoned responses to some issues in contemporary ethics.
5. Evaluate prominent debates within contemporary meta-ethics and normative ethics.

Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting *(Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)*

Assignments:	90%	Holistic assessment:	10%		%
			%		%

Details:

Assignments may include:

- Reading reflections (30%)
- Argumentative essays (60%)

Holistic assessment: Reflection on learning

NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

Texts and Resource Materials *(Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. [Open Educational Resources](#) (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the [Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form](#).)*

Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1. Textbook	Mulgan, Tim	Utilitarianism (Elements in Ethics)	2020
2. Textbook	Weston, A	A 21 st Century Ethical Toolbox	2017
3. Article	Whyte, K	"Ethics of Caring in Environmental Ethics: Indigenous and Feminist Philosophies"	2016
4. Textbook	McBride, L	Ethics and Insurrection: A Pragmatism for the Oppressed	2021
5. Textbook	Fisher, Andrew	Metaethics: An Introduction	2014

Required Additional Supplies and Materials *(Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)***Course Content and Topics**

Unit 1: Normative moral theories

- Consequentialism
- Deontology
- Virtue theory
- Indigenous ethics

Unit 2: Meta-ethics

- Moral realism
- Moral relativism
- Pragmatist ethical naturalism

Unit 3: Ethical theory and social injustice

- Ethics of care
- Capabilities approach
- Insurrectionist ethics
- Existentialist ethics