

Moral Problems of Contemporary Society

Ph 232 A02 Fall 2018

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Class meetings: Tue, Wed, Fri: 9:30-10:20
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Course description

In this course we discuss ethically significant issues of our societies. We begin with a discussion of the distinction between ethics and applied ethics, the role of arguments in ethics, and the relation of ethics to religion and to law. Throughout the remainder of the course key ethical principles and theories are introduced and applied to contemporary issues such as euthanasia, abortion, poverty, sexual relations and drugs.

Course objectives

- To acquire an understanding of the structure of major ethical theories and their application to real life issues of our world today.
- To learn to about the complexities of moral problems of contemporary society, and how we may think critically about the respective views debated.
- To sharpen our ability to work with the arguments, and how to assess their strength and weaknesses.

Texts and Coursespaces readings

Required text: **A Coursepack**, plus selected texts to be downloaded from **Coursespaces** (see details on the schedule of lectures below). Be attentive to announcements in class and on *Coursespaces*. Recommended optional supplementary: Anthony Weston, ***A Rulebook for Arguments*** (Hackett, 2009).

Graded student activities

Final, comprehensive, take-home exam	40%
Mid-term test	30%
Participation, including weekly assignments	10%
Experiential group project	20%