Moral Problems of Contemporary Society
INFORMATION SHEET
Ph 232 A02 Fall 2019
CRN XXXX

Instructor: Thomas Heyd, Ph.D.
Office: Clearihue B 309
Class meetings: Tue, Wed, Fri 1:30-2:20
Classroom: TBA
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Course description
In this course we discuss ethically significant issues of our societies with a philosophical perspective. 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, uranium mining and sexual relations. Students from all faculties are welcome.

Course objectives
• To learn about ethical theories and their application to the complexities of issues of our contemporary world.
• To carefully examine the philosophical arguments that arise surrounding the controversial issues discussed in the course.
• To sharpen our ability for critical analysis of assumptions and arguments, and how to assess their strength and weaknesses, supported by consideration of realistic cases.

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: Anthony Weston, A Rulebook for Arguments (Hackett).

Graded student activities
1. Participation, including weekly assignments 10%
2. Experiential group project and presentation 20%
3. Mid-term test 30%
4. Final take-home exam 40%