

Code of course: BBN-ETI-376.09
Title of course: ISSUES IN APPLIED ETHICS
Title of course in English: ISSUES IN APPLIED ETHICS
THE FIRST CLASS OF THE COURSE WILL BE HELD ON THE WEEK OF 9 SEPTEMBER, 2019
Lecturer: Yuliya Kanygina
Office hour, consultation (e-mail of the lecturer): kanygina.yuliya@gmail.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Applied ethics deals with pressing practical issues, such as, human enhancement, climate change, war, eating animals, and organ donation. This course provides a forum for discussion on these and some other topics. We will consider philosophical principles relevant for thinking about these issues, as well as problems that underlie disagreements about them. Basic familiarity with normative moral theories such as consequentialism and Kantian deontology is a plus but not a requirement.

GENERAL AIM OF THE COURSE:

The course aims to familiarize students with a range of issues in applied ethics and to provide them with the opportunity to master and criticize existing philosophical arguments on these issues. Students will also learn about various the philosophical principles, such as the Harm Principle, the Doctrine of Doing and Allowing, and the Doctrine of Double Effect, that are notably used in considering many issues in applied ethics.

COURSE EVALUATION:

All students are expected to attend all classes and are strongly encouraged to be active in class. Ask questions and try answering questions posed by others. In-class participation will compose 50% of your final grade. Additionally, each student will be asked to write an essay (2000 words) on a topic of his or her choice (pre-approved by the instructor). The essay will compose another 50% of your final grade.

Weekly schedule and readings:

Readings marked by asterisk are mandatory!

(1) 10 September – **The Nature of Applied Ethics.**

*BEAUCHAMP, L. Tom. “The Nature of Applied Ethics,” in *A Companion to Applied Ethics*, ed. R. G. Frey and Christopher Heath Wellman (Oxford: Blackwell, 2003), 1–16.

(2) 17 September – **Human Enhancement**

*HARRIS, John. “Enhancements Are a Moral Obligation,” in *Human Enhancement*, ed. Julian Savulescu and Nick Bostrom (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009), 131–154.

SANDEL, Michael. “The Case Against Perfection,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 293, no. 3 (2004): 51–62.

(3) 24 September – **Doing and Allowing: The Doctrine of Double Effect.**

*QUINN, S. Warren. “Actions, Intentions and Consequences” in his *Morality and Action*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993), 175–193.

THOMSON, Judith Jarvis. “The Trolley Problem” in her *Rights, Restitution and Risk* (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1986).

(4) 1 October – **Climate Change I: Responsibility**

*SINNOTT-ARMSTRONG, Walter. “It’s Not My Fault: Global Warming and Individual Moral Obligations,” in *Perspectives on Climate Change: Science, Economics, Politics, Ethics*, ed. Walter Sinnott-Armstrong and Richard B. Howarth, vol. 5, 2005, 285–307.

THOMPSON, F. Dennis. “Moral Responsibility of Public Officials: The Problem of Many Hands,” *The American Political Science Review* 74, no. 4 (December 1, 1980): 905–916.

(4) 8 October – **Climate Change II: Private and Public Morality**

*BROOME, John. *Climate Matters: Ethics in a Warming World*. (New York, N.Y.: W. W. Norton & co., 2012), Ch. 4 “Justice and Fairness.”

BROOME, John. *Climate Matters: Ethics in a Warming World*. (New York, N.Y.: W. W. Norton & co., 2012), Ch.5 “Private morality.”

(5) 15 October – **Killing and Eating Animals**

*SINGER, Peter. “All Animals Are Equal,” in *Animal Rights and Human Obligations*, ed. Tom Regan and Peter Singer, 2nd ed. (Englewood Cliffs, N.J: Prentice Hall, 1989), 148–162.

KORSGAARD, M. Christine. “Fellow Creatures: Kantian Ethics and Our Duties to Animals,” *Tanner Lectures on Human Values* 25 (2005): 77–109.

(6) 22 October – **War**

- *WALZER, Michael. *Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument with Historical Illustrations* (New York, Basic Books, 1977), Ch. 4.
- *MCMAHAN, Jeff. "Just Cause for War." *Ethics & International Affairs* 19, no. 3 (December 2005): 1–21.

October 29 – No Class

(7) 5 November – **Organ Donation**

- *MCGRATH, Sarah. "Organ Procurement, Altruism, and Autonomy," *The Journal of Value Inquiry* 40, no. 2–3 (September 2007): 297–309.
- SATZ, Debra. "The Moral Limits of Markets: The Case of Human Kidneys," *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 108, no. 1pt3 (2008): 269–288.

(8) 12 November – **Euthanasia**

- *VELLEMAN, J. David. "A Right of Self-Termination?," *Ethics*, 109 (1999), pp. 606–628.
- YOUNG, Robert. *Medically Assisted Death*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007).
- Symposium on Physician-Assisted Suicide. *Ethics*, 109 (1999), <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/et.1999.109.issue-3>

(9) 19 November – **Abortion**

- *THOMSON, Judith Jarvis. *Rights, Restitution and Risk*, (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1986), Ch. 1.
- MARQUIS, Don. "An Argument that Abortion is Wrong." Hugh LaFollette ed. *Ethics in Practice*, (Oxford: Blackwell, 1997), 91–102.

(10) 26 November – **Death Penalty**

- *POJMAN, P. Louis. "A Defense of the Death Penalty," in A. Cohen and C. H. Wellman *Contemporary Debates in Applied Ethics* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2014), 159–174.
- NATHANSON, Stephen. "Why We Should Put the Death Penalty to Rest." in A. Cohen and C. H. Wellman *Contemporary Debates in Applied Ethics* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2014), 175–188.

(11) 3 December – **Drugs**

- *HUSAK, Douglas. "In Favor of Drug Decriminalization," in A. Cohen and C. H. Wellman *Contemporary Debates in Applied Ethics* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2014), 335–345.
- De MARNEFFE, Peter. "Against the Legalization of Drugs," in A. Cohen and C. H. Wellman *Contemporary Debates in Applied Ethics* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2014), 346–358.

12. 10 December – **Revision and conclusions**

Books on practical and general ethics, edited collections and introductions:

- *Contemporary Debates in Applied Ethics*, edited by Andrew I. Cohen and Christopher Heath Wellman, 2nd Edition (Wiley Blackwell, 2014).
- *Applied Ethics*, edited by Peter Singer (New York: Oxford University Press, 1986).
- *The Oxford Handbook of Practical Ethics*, edited by Hugh LaFollette (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003).
- *Ethics in Practice: An Anthology*, (4th edition) edited by Hugh LaFollette (Wiley Blackwell, 2014).
- *What's Wrong?: Applied Ethicists and Their Critics*, edited by David Boonin and Graham Oddie (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010).