

Washington University
College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Philosophy

CONTEMPORARY MORAL PROBLEMS

(COURSE SYLLABUS)

<i>Class:</i>	<i>Class hours: 3</i>	<i>Time: 3:00 - 4:20 T.TH.</i>
<i>Section: 01</i>	<i>Credit hours: 3</i>	<i>Class room:</i>

Mashhad Al-Allaf

B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in Philosophy: Concentration on Science and Metaphysics.

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Office hours: Before class, and by appointment.

Text Book: Philosophical Views on Controversial Moral Issues. A Course Pack.

Course Description:

This course is designed to present the student with a solid introduction to contemporary moral problems and ethical theories in their relation to our life and society. Emphasis will also be placed on the basic elements of ethical reasoning and argumentation and how these, along with ethical theory, can be used to solve (or attempt to solve) ethical conflict and dilemmas in our life. To deal seriously with ethical issues we need to see argumentation as more than just mere opinions. In order to facilitate lively and pointed discussion we will cover the basics of ethical theories.

Course Requirements:

- 1- Class attendance and participation is mandatory: Students should arrive at class having carefully studied the assigned text and prepared to discuss it.
- 2- Complete all reading assignments.
- 3- Take three exams on course material.
- 4- Reading quizzes.
- 5- Verbal Report has to be presented in groups of 3-4 students.

Grading Scale:

	97-100 =A+	92-96=A	89.5-91=A-
First Exam. 100	86-89 =B+	82-85=B	79.5-81=B-
Second Exam. 100	76-79=C+	72-75=C	69.5-71=C-
Third Exam. 80	66-69=D+	62-65=D	59.5-61=D-
	59 and below=F, or 92=A, 82=B, 72=C, 62=D		

20 points for the Followings:

Quizzes and Participation:	6 points.
Verbal report:	6 points.
Attendance:	8 points, every absence is a (-2 points). 6 absences = F.

Make-up Exams and Late Papers:

Make-up exams will only be given in cases of a *documented* illness or personal crisis. If you are too ill to take the exam, then you will need to present verifiable documentation from a licensed healthcare professional. The same rule applies to late papers.

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>READING/ACTIVITY</u>	<u>PAGE #</u>
January 14 T	<i>Class Introduction and Policies</i>	-----
Jan.16 TH	Multiculturalism: Three values.	First Article
Jan. 21T	Is Morality Relative to Culture? Yes.	2-12
Jan. 23 TH	Is Morality Relative to Culture? No.	13-23
Jan.28T	Does Morality need Religion? Yes	26-36
Jan.30 TH	Theories: Divine Com. Natural Law. Divine Law.	Lecture
Feb. 4 T	Does Morality need Religion? No.	37-48
Feb. 6 TH	Discussion or Movie.	-----
Feb.11 T	U.N. Declaration of Human Rights.	Sixth Article
Feb.13 TH	Women's Rights as Human Rights.	Ninth Article
Feb.18 T	The Philosophy of Feminism.	Lecture
Feb. 20TH	Movie, Discussion, and Review.	-----
Feb. 25 T	<u>First Exam.</u>	-----
Feb. 27 TH	Martin Luther King, Jr. Letter from Birmingham	Seventh Article
March 4 T	Social Contract Theory.	Lecture
March 6 TH	Discussion and Movie.	-----
March 11T	<u>Spring Break; No Class.</u> <i>Midterm Grades.</i>	-----
March 13 TH	<u>Spring Break; No Class.</u>	-----
March 18T	African Context of Human Rights.	Eighth Article
March 20 TH	Chomsky: Neoliberalism.	Tenth Article
March25T	Chomsky: Consent without Consent.	Eleventh Article
March 27 TH	Discussion.	-----
April 1 T	<u>Second Exam.</u>	-----
April 3 TH	Should Human Cloning Be Banned? Yes.	152-160
April 8 T	Should Human Cloning Be Banned? No.	161-167
April 10 TH	Is Euthanasia Immoral? Yes.	302-307
April 15T	Is Euthanasia Immoral? No.	308-312
April 17 TH	Do Rich Nations Have an Obligation? Yes.	Twelfth Article
April 22 T	Do Rich Nations Have an Obligation? No.	Thirteenth Article
April 24 TH	Verbal Report.	-----
April 29T	Verbal Report, Review.	-----
May 1 TH	<u>Third Exam.</u>	-----