

Fall 2015

## **PHIL 2201**

Frank Schalow  
*University of New Orleans*

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## PHIL 2201: ETHICS (3 credits), Fall 2015

SECTION 001: LA 372, M, W F, 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

Contact  
Information

**Instructor:** Dr. Schalow  
**Office:** UNO: LA 383  
**Office Hours:** M, W, F, 8:30-9:00;11:00-12:00; 2:30-3:00 (and by appointment)  
**Office Phone:** (504) 280-6815  
**Email:** fschalow@uno.edu  
**Course Webpages:** Accessed via Moodle

Required  
Texts

[1] *Morality and Moral Controversies*, ed. John Arthur. Pearson/Prentice-Hall, 2011. ISBN: 0-13—34155-X

Course Description

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** A study of concepts of right and wrong, good and evil, and their grounds.

**COURSE OVERVIEW:** The course is designed to introduce the student to the basic ethical theories—both historical and contemporary—and to the ongoing debate concerning the most controversial moral issues of our day. Such issues include abortion, euthanasia, the welfare of the environment and animals, as well as concerns for economic and social justice.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to do the following:

- to recognize philosophical questions, particularly those surrounding moral controversies
- to know the primary ethical theories throughout the history of philosophy
- to understand and articulate the various ethical controversies that have surfaced in contemporary times.
- work with philosophical concepts and methods, and to construct and evaluate arguments
- to participate in classroom discussion, developing and displaying an ability and readiness to defend one's own point of view while listening openly but carefully to others
- to demonstrate a willingness to entertain criticism, formulate and reply to reasonable objections, and represent opposing views both critically and sympathetically
- to read both primary and secondary texts and analyze the arguments contained in them correctly

Grading

Requirement		Final grade	
Analytical Paper	(16%) 16 points	<b>A</b>	<b>100-89.5</b>
First exam	(28%) 28 points	<b>B</b>	<b>89.4-79.5</b>
Second exam	(28%) 28 points	<b>C</b>	<b>79.4-69.5</b>
Third exam	(28%) 28 points	<b>D</b>	<b>69.4-59.5</b>
		<b>F</b>	<b>59.4—0</b>

Course Requirements

**ANALYTICAL PAPER:** The primary reason for attending college is to begin the process of becoming a scholar by reflecting on complicated questions related to the human experience. To this end, each student is required to write an “analytical” paper, arguing the “pro” or “con” of a specific position for one of the topics we addressed in class, e.g., “pro-life” vs. “pro-choice,” “physician-assisted suicide” (pro or con). The paper must be submitted in duplicate, 1) uploaded to Moodle and 2) a hardcopy delivered to the Professor in class. The paper is due on Nov. 11 (Wed). The paper is worth 16% of the student’s final grade. **Late Papers:** All papers received after that date will be deducted 5 points for each day late. *All papers must be submitted in either a Word or PDF format.*

**TESTS:** Three tests (including the final) will be given throughout the semester. Each test counts 28% toward the student’s final grade. For students who miss an exam, see “Make-Up” policy below.

**PARTICIPATION:** Participating in class is encouraged, and can impact the student’s final grade in a positive way in the case of “borderline” grades.

Course Policies

**ACADEMIC HONESTY** Academic dishonesty undermines the academic enterprise and includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarizing, tampering with academic records or exams, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. If you’re foolish enough to do something like this, you’ll be expelled from the course with a failing grade and will be reported to the university.

**ATTENDANCE** Attendance is expected at all class meetings. Students who miss more than 7 classes throughout the semester will have the tally of their final grade deducted one letter, e.g., from “A” to “B”.

**DISABILITY POLICY** It is university policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accomodation to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contract their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. If you any questions, contact the Office of Disability Serviced at UC 260, (504 280-6222 (Voice).

**MAKE-UP EXAMS:** Make-up exams are allowed. However, the penalty for missing a test (for whatever reason) is a deduction of 8 points from that exam.  
**Make-up exams will only be given during my office hours.**

**Class Conduct:** Each student is requires to act in a civil and respectful way.

**WITHDRAWALS:** You may withdraw from this course for any reason. Look in the University calander for the last day to withdraw.

**WARNING!**

Philosophy requires critical thinking. It is not for everyone.

**Course Schedule (Subject to change)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Aug. 19	"Introduction"	
Aug. 21	Basic Concepts of Ethics	
Aug. 24	Relativism and Objectivism, Plato	
Aug. 26	Aristotle's Ethics	<i>Morality and Moral Controversies</i> , 1-7
Aug. 28	Cont.	Cont.
Aug. 31	Kant's Ethics	<i>Morality and Moral Controversies</i> , 16-25
Sep. 2	Cont.	Cont.
Sep. 4		<i>Morality and Moral Controversies</i> , 27-34
Sep. 9	Nietzsche's Critique of Ethics	
Sep. 11	Review	
Sep. 14	Test #1	
Sep. 16	The Abortion Controversy	<i>Morality and Moral Controversies</i> , 204-211
Sep. 18	Judith Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion"	<i>Morality and Moral Controversies</i> , 212-217
Sep. 21	Mary Warren, "The Moral and Legal Status of Abortion"	<i>Morality and Moral Controversies</i> , 218-225
Sep. 23	Consultation Day	
Sep. 25	The Euthanasia Controversy	
Sep. 28	James Rachels, "Active vs. Passive Euthanasia"	
Sep. 30	Richard Brandt, "Defective Newborns"	<i>Morality and Moral Controversies</i> , 265-271
Oct. 2	Sexual Ethics, Kant	<i>Morality and Moral Controversies</i> , 285-289
Oct. 5	S. Ruddick, "Better Sex"; A Goldman, "Plain Sex"	<i>Morality and Moral Controversies</i> , 291-299
Oct. 7	R. Wasserstrom, "Is Adultery Immoral?"	
Oct. 9	Erotic Material and the Question of Censorship	
Oct. 12	A. Gary, "Pornography and Respect for Women"	

Oct. 14	The Technology of the Internet	
Oct. 16	Midsemester Break	
Oct. 19	Review	
Oct. 21	Test #2	
Oct. 23	Consultation Day and Paper Day	
Oct. 26	Social Justice, Civil Disobedience, and the Division Between Legality and Morality	
Oct. 28	John Rawls	<i>Morality and Moral Controversies</i> , 461-465
Oct. 30	Robert Nozick	<i>Morality and Moral Controversies</i> , 452-461
Nov. 2	Nozick and the Critique of Socialism	
Nov. 4	Karl Marx and Economic Justice	<i>Morality and Moral Controversies</i> , 465-473
Nov. 6	Feminism and its Different Forms, <b>Paper Due</b>	
Nov. 9	B. Steinbock and the Question of Surrogate Pregnancy	
Nov. 11	R. Wasserman, "On Racism and Sexism"; The Bakke Case; <b>Paper Due</b>	<i>Morality and Moral Controversies</i> , 571-581; 510
Nov. 13	The Environmental Question, M. Heidegger and "Poetic Dwelling"	
Nov. 16	Shallow vs. Deep Ecology	
Nov. 18	Peter Singer and Animal Rights	<i>Morality and Moral Controversies</i> , 158-168
Nov. 20	Kant's Interest in Animals	
Nov. 23	The Question of Overpopulation	
Nov. 25	Consultation Day	
Nov. 31	Pandemics and the AIDS Crisis	
Dec. 2	Review	
Dec. 4	Cont.	
Dec. 11	Final Exam (Fri., 10:00-12:00)	

**Reading is due for the date listed. All page numbers refer to the required course text.**

- Aug. 19 "Introduction"
- Aug. 21 Basic Concepts of Ethics
- Aug. 24 Relativism and Objectivism, Plato
- Aug. 26 Aristotle's ethics, *Morality and Moral Controversies*, pp 1-7
- Aug. 28 *Continued*
- Aug. 31 Kant's ethics, *Morality and Moral Controversies*, pp. 16-25
- Sept. 2 *Continued*
- Sept. 4 *Morality and Moral Controversies*, pp. 27-34.
- Sept. 9 Nietzsche's Critique of Ethics
- Sept. 11 *Review*
- Sept. 14 Test #1
- Sept. 16 The Abortion Controversy, pp. 204-211 (*Morality and Moral Controversies*)
- Sept. 18 Judith Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion," pp. 212-217.
- Sept. 21 Mary Warren, "The Moral and Legal Status of Abortion," pp. 218-225.
- Sept. 23 Consultation Day
- Sept. 25 The Euthanasia Controversy
- Sept. 28 James Rachels, "Active vs. Passive Euthanasia."
- Sept. 30 Richard Brandt, "Defective Newborns," pp. 265-271
- Oct. 2 Sexual Ethics, Kant, pp. 285-289
- Oct. 5 S. Ruddick, "Better Sex"; A Goldman, "Plain Sex," pp. 291-299.
- Oct. 7 R. Wasserstrom, "Is Adultery Immoral?"
- Oct. 9 Erotic Material and the Question of Censorship
- Oct. 12 A. Gary, "Pornography and Respect for Women
- Oct. 14 The technology of the internet
- Oct. 16 Midsemester Break
- Oct. 19 *Review*
- Oct. 21 Test #2
- Oct. 23 Consultation Day and Paper Day
- Oct. 26 Social Justice, Civil Disobedience, and the Division between Legality and Morality
- Oct. 28 John Rawls, pp. 461-465
- Oct. 30 Robert Nozick, pp. 452-461
- Nov. 2 Nozick and the Critique of Socialism
- Nov. 4 Karl Marx and Economic Justice, pp. 465-473
- Nov. 6 Feminism and its Different Forms, **Paper Due**
- Nov. 9 B. Steinbock and the Question of Surrogate Pregnancy
- Nov. 11 R. Wasserstrom, "On Racism and Sexism," pp. 576-581; The Bakke case, p. 510, **Paper Due**
- Nov. 13 The Environmental Question, M. Heidegger and "Poetic Dwelling, "
- Nov. 16 Shallow vs. Deep Ecology
- Nov. 18 Peter Singer and Animal Rights, pp. 158-168
- Nov. 20 Kant's interest in animals
- Nov. 23 The question of overpopulation
- Nov. 25 Consultation Day
- Nov. 31 Pandemics and the AIDS crisis
- Dec. 2 *Review*
- Dec. 4 *Cont.*
- Dec. 11 Final exam (Fri., 10:00-12:00)

**Syllabus Attachment (Fall, 2015)**

**Important Dates\***

Last day to adjust schedule w/out fee 08/18/2015

Semester Classes Begin .....08/19/2015

Last day to adjust schedule w/fee,  
or withdraw with 100% refund.....08/25/2015

Last day to apply for December commencement 09/25/2015

Final day to drop a course or resign 10/14/2015

Mid-semester examinations. 10/05-10/09/2015

Final examinations..... 12/07-12/11/2015

Commencement .....12/18/2015

*\*Note: check Registrar's website for Saturday and A/B sessions, and for items not listed here:  
<http://www.registrar.uno.edu>*

### **Fall Semester Holidays**

Labor Day .....09/07/2015

Mid-semester break ..... 10/15-10/16/2015

Thanksgiving..... 11/26-11/27/2015

### **Withdrawal Policy – Undergraduate only**

Students are responsible for initiating action to resign from the University (withdraw from all courses) or from a course on or before dates indicated in the current Important dates calendar. Students who fail to resign by the published final date for such action will be retained on the class rolls even though they may be absent for the remainder of the semester and be graded as if they were in attendance. Failure to attend classes does not constitute a resignation. Check the dates on the Registrar's website, <http://www.registrar.uno.edu>. Please consult The Bulletin for charges associated with dropping and adding courses.

### **Incomplete Policy – Undergraduate only**

The grade of I means *incomplete* and is given for work of passing quality but which, because of circumstances beyond the student's control, is not complete. The issuance of the grade of I is at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the course. For all graduate and undergraduate students, a grade of I becomes a grade of F if it is not converted before the deadline for adding courses for credit (as printed in the Important Dates Calendar) of the next regular semester including summer semester.

### **Repeat Policy**

When a student is permitted to repeat a course for credit, the last grade earned shall be the one which determines course acceptability for degree credit. A student who has earned a C or better in a course may not repeat that course unless, (1) the catalog description indicates that the course may be repeated for credit, or (2) the student's Dean gives prior approval for documented extenuating circumstances.

### **Graduate Policies**

Graduate policies often vary from undergraduate policies. To view the applicable policies for graduate students, see the Graduate Student Handbook: <http://www.uno.edu/grad/documents/GraduateStudentHandbook2014.pdf>

### **Academic Dishonesty Policy**

<http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs-enrollment-management/documents/academic-dishonesty-policy-rev2014.pdf>

### **Safety Awareness Facts and Education**

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: <http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs-enrollment-management/>

### **UNO Counseling Services and UNO Cares**

UNO offers care and support for students in any type of distress. Counseling Services assist students in addressing mental health concerns through assessment, short-term counseling, and career testing and counseling. Find out more at <http://www.uno.edu/counseling-services/>. First-year students often have unique concerns, and UNO Cares is designed to address those students succeed. Contact UNO Cares through <http://www.uno.edu/fye/uno-cares.aspx>.

### **Emergency Procedures**

Sign up for emergency notifications via text and/or email at E2Campus Notification: <http://www.uno.edu/ehso/emergency-communications/index.aspx>. All emergency and safety procedures are explained at the Emergency Health and Safety Office: <http://www.uno.edu/ehso/>.

### **Diversity at UNO**

As the most diverse public university in the state, UNO maintains a Diversity Affairs division to support the university's efforts towards creating an environment of healthy respect, tolerance, and appreciation for the people from all walks of life, and the expression of intellectual point of view and personal lifestyle. The Office of Diversity Affairs promotes these values through a wide range of programming and activities. <http://diversity.uno.edu/index.cfm>

### **Learning and Support Services**

Help is within reach in the form of learning support services, including tutoring in writing and math and other supplemental instruction. Visit the Learning Resource Center in LA 334, or learn more at <http://www.uno.edu/lrc/>.

**Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity**

UNO is an equal opportunity employer. The Human Resource Management department has more information on UNO's compliance with federal and state regulations regarding EEOC in its Policies and Resources website: <http://www.uno.edu/human-resource-management/policies.aspx>