PHIL 162 Contemporary Moral Issues

Syllabus
Andy Lamey
Fall 2013
Tu. & Th. 3:30-4:50 pm
Sequoyah Hall
Room 148
Office Hours: Mon &. Wed. 10:00-11:00 am

Content

This course consists of an in-depth examination of three areas of contemporary moral controversy. They concern the ethics of border control, issues related to autonomy in bioethics and the marriage debate. We will begin with a brief introduction to moral theory as well as an examination of an argument by Will Kymlicka which has been influential across all three of our areas of inquiry. The course is designed to be accessible to students with minimal background in philosophy.

Assessment

Assessment for the class will consist of:

A short essay (1,000 words) worth 15 percent of the final mark, due Mon. Nov. 4*
A major essay (2000 words) worth 30 percent of the final mark, due Mon. Nov. 25
An exam worth 40 percent of final mark
Class participation worth 15 percent of the final mark

*Note that students can hand in the short essay any time before the due date if they prefer.

Readings and Schedule

All of the required readings are contained in the course reader prepared by Soft Reserves.


Thurs. Oct. 3 & Tues. Oct. 8: Multiculturalism


**Monday Nov 4: Short Essay Due 5:00 pm**

Thurs. Oct. 31 & Tues. Nov. 5: Bioethics I


Thurs. Nov. 7 & Tues. Nov. 12: Bioethics II


**Major Essay due Monday Nov 25 5:00 pm**

Thurs. Nov. 21 & Tues. Nov. 26: Marriage I


**Thurs. Nov. 28 Thanksgiving No Class**

Tues. Dec 3 & Thurs. Dec 5: Marriage II


**Week of Dec. 9-14: Final exam**

**General Information**

**Office Hours**

I will be keeping both normal and electronic office hours between 10:00-11:00 on Mondays and Wednesdays. You are welcome to drop by in person or, if you prefer, contacting me via Skype. My skype ID is andy_lamey. I am also available by appointment outside my office hours. I am always happy to discuss any aspect of this course with you.

**Submission**

Both essays in this class will be submitted electronically. Students are not required to submit a hard copy.

**Extensions**

I am happy to grant extensions of up to 48 hours without requiring a medical certificate or other documentation. In order to grant such an extension I need to receive your request before noon on the day the assessment in question is due (email is fine). Requests received after noon on the due date will require documentation, as will requests for extensions longer than 48 hours. Please note
that if you receive an extension your paper may be graded and returned a few
days after those that were completed on time.

Late Work

For all short assignments (1,000 words or less), if your work is submitted late
without an extension, your mark will be capped at a bare pass (50%). You will
probably only receive minimal feedback on your work. Short assignments
submitted more than 7 days late without an extension cannot be accepted at all
without a medical certificate or similar documentation.

For all assignments of 1,000 words or more handed in after the due date and
without an extension, a five percent penalty applies for the first day of the
missed deadline. After that, a subsequent penalty of two percent per day will be
applied for the next thirteen calendar days after the due date (including
Saturdays and Sundays). No assignment can be accepted after more than
fourteen calendar days except in exceptional circumstances and in consultation
with your instructor. Assignments that are handed in late and without extension
will be graded and returned after those that were completed on time and will not
receive written or other feedback.

Feedback

Feedback on written work may take the form of written comments or oral
comments from the instructor in a recorded video.

Lecture Slides

Lecture slides will generally be available on TED an hour before class.

Technology in the Classroom

Please note that until further notice, laptops and tablets are not permitted in
class. This class may use clickers.

Waitlist

Unenrolled students will be admitted to this class according to their place on the
waitlist.