

## **Phil 213: Contemporary Moral Problems (T-2 HUM)**

Location and Time: C E Chavez Building, Room 400, Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:45

Instructor: Robert Wallace, [rhwallace@email.arizona.edu](mailto:rhwallace@email.arizona.edu)

Office Hours: Social Sciences Room 130 on T: 10-11:30, W: 2-3:30, or by appointment

The information contained in this course syllabus, *other than the grade and absence policies*, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

### **Course Description:**

This course is an opportunity to discuss and critically analyze issues of contemporary ethical concern. For example, we will be asking questions like the following: Is physician-assisted suicide ever morally permissible? Do you have to give to charity? If so, how much? Do we have duties and responsibilities to the environment? This course will help you develop your own thoughts on these matters by examining moral theory and reasoning. The goal of the course is to provide you with the tools to think critically, for yourself, about these issues. Please be aware that some of the content of this course might be on topics that you or your classmates find to be sensitive, uncomfortable, or offensive. To this end, it is an additional goal of the course to discuss contentious moral issues with others in a reasonable and respectful manner.

### **Required Text:**

*Disputed Moral Issues: A Reader*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, ed. Mark Timmons

No other texts are required. I may post additional or optional readings onto D2L.

### **Grading and Assignments:**

Grade Breakdown:

Attendance and Participation	5% of your grade
Reading quizzes	5%
Paper 1	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Paper 2	25%
Final Exam	25%

Attendance and Participation: You will be required to attend every class and I will take attendance. You can miss two classes without any penalty. After this, you will lose 20% of this grade category for every class missed. If you have an excuse, please let me know in a timely manner. Absences approved by the Dean or for holidays or special events observed by organized religions will be honored. The UA's policy concerning Class Attendance, Participation, and Administrative Drops is available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/class-attendance-participation-and-administrative->

drop. The UA policy regarding absences for any sincerely held religious belief, observance or practice will be accommodated where reasonable: <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/religious-accommodation-policy>. Absences preapproved by the UA Dean of Students (or dean's designee) will be honored. [file:///localhost/See http://policy.arizona.edu/employmenthuman-resources:attendance](file:///localhost/See%20http://policy.arizona.edu/employmenthuman-resources:attendance).

Reading Quizzes: I will give very short, unannounced reading quizzes on the assignments. They are designed to be very easy for someone who has done the reading.

Papers: There are two assigned papers to write for this course, each about 5 pages in length. The instructions for the papers will be posted to the D2L website and discussed in class. Please upload your paper to the drop-box on D2L. Paper 1 is due on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Paper 2 is due on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Exams: The mid-term exam will be held on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The date of the final exam is May 10<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 in CE Chavez 400. Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer sections.

Late Work: Work that is handed in after the day after the deadline has passed will be marked down one full letter grade, and so on. For instance an A paper that is received within 24 hours of the deadline will receive a B, 48 hours late will receive a C, and so on. Students with an officially documented excuse will be exempt from this policy with permission from the instructor. The following *do not count* as legitimate excuses: failure to read the syllabus, sleeping in, or forgetfulness.

Rounding and Curving: I will round grades up by .5, so that a 79.5 will earn a B while a 69.5 will earn a C, and so on. No grades will be curved in the course. However, as things move forward, I reserve the right to curve. Please do not rely on this possibility!

### **Classroom Behavior:**

Do not use your cell phones in class. You are allowed to use computers in this course, but if you choose to do so, you must sit in the front rows of the classroom. If you arrive late, please try not to be disruptive. Most importantly, you must be respectful to myself and the other students in the classroom. The classroom is a place where thoughts can be expressed without fear of bullying, discrimination, or threats.

The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to oneself. See <http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students>. The University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination; see <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>

### **Academic Integrity:**

Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic->

[integrity/students/academic-integrity](#). The University Libraries have some excellent tips for avoiding plagiarism, available at <http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html>. Ignorance of the academic integrity policies is not a viable excuse. Bottom line: please do your own work. If you have any questions about the policy, for instance, about what would or would not constitute a violation (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) please do not hesitate to ask me!

### **Accessibility and Accommodations:**

Our goal in this classroom is that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. You are also welcome to contact the Disability Resource Center (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations. For additional information on the Disability Resource Center and reasonable accommodations, please visit <http://drc.arizona.edu>. If you have reasonable accommodations, please plan to meet with me by appointment or during office hours to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate. Please be aware that the accessible table and chairs in this room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not usable.

### **Confidentiality**

Please see: <http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/ferpa/default.htm>

### **Incompletes and Withdrawals**

Requests for incompletes (I) and withdrawal (W) must be made in accordance with university policies. Please see: <http://catalog.arizona.edu/2013-14/policies/grade.htm> - I or <http://catalog.arizona.edu/2013-14/policies/grade.htm> - W

### **Policy on for-profit note-taking**

There are a number of organizations that sell notes from classes to students. Using these services is strictly prohibited in this class. Anyone found to be engaged in selling or buying such notes will be in violation of the rules of academic integrity for this course. According to Section D (6) (a) of the University's Intellectual Property Policy (which is available at [http://www.ott.arizona.edu/uploads/ip\\_policy.pdf](http://www.ott.arizona.edu/uploads/ip_policy.pdf)), faculty own the intellectual property for their course notes and course materials. The instructor of a course holds the copyright to his/her lectures and course materials, including student notes or summaries that substantially reflect them. Student notes and course recordings are for individual use or for shared use on an individual basis. Selling class notes and/or other course materials to other students or to a third party for resale is not permitted without the instructor's express written consent. Violations to the instructor's copyright are subject to the Code of Academic Integrity and may result in course sanctions. Additionally, students who use D2L or UA email to sell or buy these copyrighted materials are subject to Code of Conduct Violations for misuse of student email addresses.

## Outline of the Course:

Th 1/12: Course Introduction

### World Hunger and Poverty

T 1/17: Hardin, 642 & pgs. 1-6.

Th 1/19 Singer, 648 & pgs. 6-8

T 1/24 Sen, 671 & pgs. 20-25

Th 1/26 O'Neill 677 & pgs. 15-20

### Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide

T 1/31 Rachels, 336

Th 2/2 Foot, 340

T 2/7 Gill, 355

Th 2/9 Velleman, 369 **First Paper Due**

### Abortion

T 2/14 Warren, 428

Th 2/16 Thomson, 435

T 2/21 Lee and George, 444

Th 2/26 Hursthouse, 455

T 2/28 No Reading, Review

Th 3/2 **First Midterm**

T 3/7 Marquis, 465

Th 3/9 TBD on D2L

T 3/14 –Spring Break

Th 3/16 – Spring Break

### The Ethics of Immigration

T 3/21 Macedo, 273

Th 3/23 Carens, 285

T 3/28 Wellman, 299

Th 3/30 Fine, 318

### The Environment

T 4/4 Baxter, 692  
Th 4/6 Leopold, 697

T 4/11 Hill Jr, 702      **Second Paper Due**  
Th 4/13 Gardiner, 709

T 4/18 Sinnott Armstrong, 717  
Th 4/20 Lomborg, 732

T 4/25 TBD  
Th 4/27 TBD

T 5/2 Review Session

Final Exam Date: 5/10 from 1:00 to 3:00 in CE Chavez 400