



School of Arts & Science  
HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT  
PHIL 202-001  
Contemporary Moral Issues  
FALL 2011

## COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/phil.html>

Ω Please note: the College electronically stores this outline for five (5) years only.  
It is **strongly recommended** you keep a copy of this outline with your academic records.  
You will need this outline for any future application/s for transfer credit/s to other colleges/universities.

### 1. Instructor Information

|     |               |  |                    |  |
|-----|---------------|--|--------------------|--|
| (a) | Instructor:   | Megan Shelstad                                 |                    |  |
| (b) | Office Hours: | Tuesdays 4:30 - 5:00 and Thursdays 1:30 – 2:15 |                    |  |
| (c) | Location:     | Young 312                                      |                    |  |
| (d) | Phone:        | 370-3950                                       | Alternative Phone: |  |
| (e) | Email:        | shelstad@camosun.bc.ca                         |                    |  |
| (f) | Website:      |  |                    |  |

### 2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe and evaluate classic and modern moral theories.
2. Describe the resolutions to moral dilemmas that are implied by classic and modern moral theories.
3. Assess various arguments for differing positions on contemporary moral issues.
4. Articulate arguments.

### 3. Required Materials

- (a) Coursepack (available in the bookstore)

### 4. Course Content and Schedule

Lectures: Tuesdays 2:30 – 4:20 Ewing 348

Seminar A: Thursdays – 2:30 – 3:20. Ewing 348

Seminar B: Thursdays – 3:30 – 4:20 “

### 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

- (a) Assignments: 25% - argument analysis essay (min. 4 max. 6 typed pages, double-spaced) **OR** final essay exam  
20% - debate  
5% - judge or moderator duties
- (b) Quizzes: 10% - 6 quizzes (2% each, best 5, no make-ups)
- (c) Exams: 25% - midterm test
- (d) Other: 15% - Seminar attendance and participation with homework (for seminars on Thursdays please read the assigned selection and bring in your (preferably typewritten) comments. There are 12 possibilities and you need to complete 10. Minimum – ½ page, maximum – 1 page, single-spaced.

## 6. Grading System

(No changes are to be made to this section unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through the Education Council of Camosun College for approval.)

### Standard Grading System (GPA)

| Percentage | Grade | Description   | Grade Point Equivalency |
|------------|-------|---|-------------------------|
| 90-100     | A+    |   | 9                       |
| 85-89      | A     |   | 8                       |
| 80-84      | A-    |   | 7                       |
| 77-79      | B+    |   | 6                       |
| 73-76      | B     |   | 5                       |
| 70-72      | B-    |   | 4                       |
| 65-69      | C+    |   | 3                       |
| 60-64      | C     |   | 2                       |
| 50-59      | D     | Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite. | 1                       |
| 0-49       | F     | Minimum level has not been achieved.  | 0                       |

### Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca) for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

| Temporary Grade | Description  |
|-----------------|--|
| I               | <i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.  |
| IP              | <i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. (For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3 <sup>rd</sup> course attempt or at the point of course completion.) |
| CW              | <i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.  |

## 7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

### LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services, or the College web site at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca).

### STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services, and the College web site in the Policy Section.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AS APPROPRIATE OR AS REQUIRED

**Phil 202 Reading Schedule (from coursepack/class text) to be done BEFORE class**  
(course schedule subject to change if necessary)

Week 1 (Sept. 6, 8): Introduction, exercise

*Seminar: exercises, "Gyges' Ring" (Plato)*

Week 2 (Sept. 13, 15): Kluger, Govier, Moulton

*Seminar: Argument summary: "Euthyphro"(Plato)*

Week 3 (Sept. 20, 22): Waller, **\*\*QUIZ 1\*\***, Kant

*Seminar: Internet: (the "Prosperity gospel")*

Week 4 (Sept. 27, 29): Kant cont'd, Hume, Mill

*Seminar: Internet: Alan Dershowitz Nov. 8, 2001, L.A.Times*

Week 5 (Oct. 4, 6): Hobbes, **\*\*QUIZ 2\*\***, Rachels

*Seminar: Internet: Ayn Rand's "The Fountainhead" - the courtroom speech by Howard Roarke*

Week 6 (Oct. 11, 13): Rorty, Aristotle

*Seminar: Internet: Lawrence Kohlberg, Carol Gilligan: "Heinz dilemma"*

Week 7 (Oct. 18, 20): Baier, **\*\*QUIZ 3\*\***, review (you bring your questions)

*Seminar: **\*\*\*MIDTERM TEST (THURSDAY, OCT. 20)\*\*\****

Week 8 (Oct. 25, 27): tests returned, debates assigned

*Seminar: debate team work period*

Week 9 (Nov. 1, 3): **DEBATE: SAME-SEX MARRIAGE**

*Seminar: Internet:*

Week 10 (Nov. 8, 10): **DEBATE: ENVIRONMENT OR DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH \*\*\***

**\*\*QUIZ 4\*\*** (same-sex marriage, environment or distribution of wealth)

*Seminar: Internet:*

Week 11 (Nov. 15, 17): **DEBATE: ABORTION**

*Seminar: Internet: "It's time to talk about abortion," Macleans.ca*

Week 12 (Nov. 22, 24): **DEBATE: ILLEGAL DRUGS**

**\*\*QUIZ 5\*\*** (abortion, illegal drugs)

*Seminar: Internet: INSITE (Vancouver), Federal government*

Week 13 (Nov. 29, Dec. 1): **DEBATE: ASSISTED SUICIDE**

*Seminar: Internet:*

Week 14 (Dec. 6, 8): **DEBATE: TERRORISM**

**\*\*QUIZ 6\*\*** (assisted suicide, terrorism)

*Seminar:*

**\*\*EITHER THE FINAL ESSAY OR THE FINAL EXAM WILL BE DUE/HELD DURING EXAM PERIOD\*\***