

ETHICS AND SOCIETY (PHIL 2290), PART II, WINTER 2012

Instructor: Emily Muller, Department of Philosophy

Office: 340 University College, Office Hours Tuesday 1:00-2:30 and by appointment

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Class meeting: T, Th at 11:30 in room 236 University College

Our aim in this half of the class is to develop analytic, philosophical skills for reading about, considering, constructing and criticizing arguments in applied ethics. We will consider a number of influential arguments covering a range of topics. We will also look closely at one major topic: free speech and tolerance. Lectures will be divided between presentation of arguments and issues and focused in-class discussions.

Required Texts: These texts are available at the University of Manitoba Bookstore.

Free Speech: A Very Short Introduction by Nigel Warburton

Mill, John Stuart. *On Liberty*.

Singer, Peter. *Applied Ethics* (Oxford Readings in Philosophy)

Note: I may make some additional reading material available to students electronically.

Breakdown of Assignments:

7 x 6% Short Writing Assignments. Throughout the semester, 10 writing assignments will be assigned, of which students are responsible for completing 7. (42%)

Midterm exam, in class: 20%

Final Exam, Take home essay test due during exam period: 30%

Class participation, including attendance and preparedness for class discussion: 8%

Schedule of Readings and Assignments for January and February:

Week 1: introduction; Week 2, January 10 and 12: Nagel and Hume, Chapters 1 and 2

Week 3: January 17 and 19: 3: Chapter 4: Thomson's "Defense of Abortion"

Week 4: January 24 and 26: Mill *On Liberty*

Week 5: January 31 and February 2: 23: Chapter 7: Mill's "Free speech in favour of capital punishment"

Additional Reading Schedule to be announced mid January

Students are required by the Department to retain a copy of each assignment submitted to their instructors. Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, academic dishonesty, academic fraud, cheating and examination impersonation in the University of Manitoba General Calendar. (You don't really want to cheat in a class that is largely about human beings' capacity to follow moral rules. Even if I don't catch you, and I probably will, it will dog you for the rest of your life.)