

Philosophy 102: Contemporary Moral Problems

Summer 2021 - M/T/W/Th/F 10:50 – 1:00 (Zoom ID 657 098 0974)

Instructor: Michael Ball-Blakely **Email:** mbblake1@uw.edu

Office Hours: Thursday 1:00-3:00

Course Description:

In the first part of the course, we will consider ways of reasoning about morality. And we will use these tools to look at two prominent moral problems: animal rights and abortion. One goal will be to become familiar with reasoning about applied problems in moral philosophy. A second goal is to understand rights and what to do when they conflict.

In the second part of the course, we will look at one type of problem that has often been ignored or misunderstood: structural oppression. We will use Iris Marion Young's Five Faces of Oppression as an explanation of the concept, and then will spend the rest of the semester looking into different forms of oppression. We will discuss class, immigration, and race, looking at how these issues intersect and involve elements of structural oppression. While one of the main goals of this section will be learning the language of structural oppression and learning to use it as a lens through which to see problems in the world, we will also have discussions throughout as to what we ought to do in response.

You will leave this course with a better handle on 1) how to reason about moral problems; 2) the nature of rights, how rights are generated, what rights mean, and what to do when rights conflict; and 3) what exactly structural oppression is and how to figure out what obligations we have to remedy or prevent it from occurring.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Class Participation: You are expected to regularly attend & respectfully participate. Come having carefully done the reading, watched the lecture, & ready to contribute. You can also get participation credit through talking before or after class; emailing me; and participating in discussion boards. **15%.**

Short Paper Draft: You will submit a full draft of paper 1. **Due 08/02 10%.**

Short Paper: You will write a 3 to 4-page (1-1,200 word) paper on rights and personhood, extending the analysis to a topic other than animal rights or abortion. **Due 08/10 15%.**

Final Paper: You will write a 6-page (1,800-2000 word) paper *either* socioeconomic class *or* on structural oppression, migration, and the brain drain. **Due 08/20. 30%**

Quizzes: We will have daily quizzes on the reading and lecture. These will be multiple choice and True/False. **30%.**

Required Texts: None. All readings will be available on Canvas.

Information For Students

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct, including plagiarism, is prohibited by the Student Conduct Code for the University of Washington and is taken very seriously by the UW. According to the student conduct code, academic misconduct includes:

1. "Cheating" which includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. The use of unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations, or completing assignments;
 - b. The acquisition, use, or distribution of unpublished materials created by another student without the express permission of the original author(s);
 - c. Using online sources, such as solution manuals, without the permission of the instructor to complete assignments, exams, tests, or quizzes; or
 - d. Requesting, hiring, or otherwise encouraging someone to take a course, exam, test, or complete assignments for a student.
2. "Falsification," which is the intentional use or submission of falsified data, records, or other information including, but not limited to, records of internship or practicum experiences or attendance at any required event(s), or scholarly research.
3. "Plagiarism," which is the submission or presentation of someone else's words, composition, research, or expressed ideas, whether published or unpublished, without attribution. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. The use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; or
 - b. The unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or acquired from an entity engaging in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.
4. Unauthorized collaboration.
5. Engaging in behavior specifically prohibited by an instructor in the course of class instruction or in a course syllabus.
6. Multiple submissions of the same work in separate courses without the express permission of the instructor(s).
7. Taking deliberate action to destroy or damage another's academic work in order to gain an advantage for oneself or another.
8. The recording of instructional content without the express permission of the instructor(s), unless approved as a disability accommodation, and/or the dissemination or use of such unauthorized records.

(Source: WAC 478-121 - Academic Misconduct)

Plagiarism may lead to disciplinary action by the University against the student who submitted the work. Any student who is uncertain whether his or her use of the work of others constitutes plagiarism should consult the course instructor for guidance before formally submitting the course work involved.

Incompletes

Incomplete grades may only be awarded if a student is doing satisfactory work up until the last two weeks of the quarter and has furnished proof satisfactory to the instructor that the work cannot be completed because of illness or other circumstances beyond the student's control. (*Sources: Office of the Registrar – Incomplete Grades, UW General Catalog, Student Guide – Grading System*)

Grade Appeal Procedure

A student who believes that the instructor erred in the assignment of a grade, or who believes a grade recoding error or omission has occurred, shall first discuss the matter with the instructor before the end of the following academic quarter (not including Summer Quarter). If the student is not satisfied with the instructor's explanation, the student, no later than ten days after their discussion with the instructor, may submit a written appeal to the chair of the Department of Philosophy with a copy of the appeal also sent to the instructor. The chair consults with the instructor to ensure that the evaluation of the student's performance has not been arbitrary or capricious. Should the chair believe the instructor's conduct to be arbitrary or capricious and the instructor declines to revise the grade, the chair, with the approval of the voting members of his or her faculty, shall appoint an appropriate member, or members, of the faculty of the Department of Philosophy to evaluate the performance of the student and assign a grade. The Dean and Provost should be informed of this action. Once a student submits a written appeal, this document and all subsequent actions on this appeal are recorded in written form for deposit in a School file. (*Source: UW General Catalog, Student Guide – Grading System*)

Concerns About a Course, an Instructor, or a Teaching Assistant

If you have any concerns about a philosophy course or your instructor, please see the instructor about these concerns as soon as possible. If you are not comfortable talking with the instructor or not satisfied with the response that you receive, you may contact the chair of the program offering the course (names available from the Department of Philosophy, 361 Savery Hall).

If you have any concerns about a teaching assistant, please see the teaching assistant about these concerns as soon as possible. If you are not comfortable talking with the teaching assistant or not satisfied with the response that you receive, you may contact the instructor in charge of the course. If you are still not satisfied with the response that you receive, you may contact the chair of the program offering the course (names available from the Department of Philosophy, 361 Savery Hall), or the Graduate School at G-1 Communications Building (543-5900).

Equal Opportunity

The University of Washington reaffirms its policy of equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran in accordance with University of Washington policy and applicable federal and state statutes and regulations.

Access and Accommodations

Your experience in this class is important to the instructor. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to the instructor at your earliest convenience so you can discuss your needs in this course.

If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but are not limited to: mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 206-543-8924 (Voice & Relay) or uwdrs@uw.edu or disability.uw.edu. DRS offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and DRS. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is defined as the use of one's authority or power, either explicitly or implicitly, to coerce another into unwanted sexual relations or to punish another for his or her refusal, or as the creation by a member of the University community of an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or educational environment through verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

If you believe that you are being harassed, seek help—the earlier the better. You may speak with your instructor, your teaching assistant, the undergraduate advisor (363 Savery Hall), graduate program advisor (366 Savery Hall), or the chair of the philosophy department (364 Savery Hall). In addition, you should be aware that the University has designated special people to help you. For assistance you may contact: [SafeCampus](#); [Office of the Ombud](#) (339 HUB, 206-543-6028); [Title IX Investigation Office](#) (for complaints that a University student has violated the sexual misconduct provisions of the Student Conduct Code); [University Complaint Investigation and Resolution Office](#) (for complaints concerning the behavior of University employees, including faculty, teaching assistants, and other student employees).

Integrity

The Office of Research Misconduct Proceedings (ORMP) coordinates the University's handling of allegations of research misconduct against members of the University community, in consultations and cooperation with the University's schools, colleges, and campuses.

University rules define scientific and scholarly misconduct to include the following forms of inappropriate activity: intentional misrepresentation of credentials; falsification of data; plagiarism; abuse of confidentiality; deliberate violation of regulations applicable to research.

Students can report cases of scientific or scholarly misconduct either to the ORMP, to their faculty adviser, or the department chair. The student should report such problems to whomever he or she feels most comfortable.

(Sources: Executive Order No. 61 – Research Misconduct Policy; Office of Research Misconduct Proceedings; minutes of Grad School Executive Staff and Division Heads meeting, 7/23/98.)

SafeCampus

Preventing violence is everyone's responsibility. SafeCampus is the University of Washington's Violence Prevention and Response Program. They support students, staff, faculty, and community members in preventing violence.

SafeCampus staff will listen to your concerns and provide support and safety plans tailored to your situation. Caring, trained professionals will talk you through options and connect you with additional resources if you want them.

If you're concerned, tell someone.

- Always call 911 if you or others may be in danger.
- Call 206-685-SAFE (7233) to report non-urgent threats of violence and for referrals to UW counseling and/or safety resources. TTY or VP callers, please call through your preferred relay service.
- Don't walk alone. Campus safety guards can walk with you on campus after dark. Call Husky NightWalk 206-685-WALK (9255).
- Stay connected in an emergency with UW Alert. Register your mobile number to receive instant notification of campus emergencies via text and voice messaging. [Sign up for UW Alert](#) online.

For more information visit the [SafeCampus website](#)