

PHIL 4706

# Ethics in Therapeutic Practice and Health Promotion

Fall 2021

Coquitlam D1026

12:30-15:20

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Office hours

## DESCRIPTION

Some actions are right, some wrong. Some outcomes are good, some bad. And some people are virtuous, some vicious. Or, at least, it certainly seems that way. This course is an introduction to philosophical reflection on what it is for something to be, and whether anything actually is, one of these things, with a special focus on issues in therapeutic practice and health promotion.

The first two parts of the course involves working through selected material from Russ Schafer-Landau's *The Fundamentals of Ethics*. We'll begin by discussing the nature and status of morality. Is it objective? Relative? Dependent on religion? Then we will cover the major ethical theories, such as consequentialism, deontology, and virtue theory. The final part will turn to applications. We will read and discuss selections from the book *Issues in Recreation and Leisure: Ethical Decision Making* by Mclean and Yoder that address professional practices in general as well as topics particular to therapeutic practice and health promotion.

## REQUIREMENTS

Exams —60% (three exams worth 20% each)

Summary or Discussion Questions —20%

Group Presentations —20%

### *Exams*

The exams will be made up of short answer and short essay questions. They are not cumulative. Each exam will cover material from the corresponding part of the course.

### *Summary or Discussion Questions*

For each class, with the exception of the first, you have the option of either submitting a summary (2 pages) of the previous class discussion, a short (1 page) reflection plus discussion questions for that days' topic, or doing a five minute presentation on either. They will be graded pass/fail and passed assignments are worth 4% each. That is, once you have successfully completed five of these assignments, you have completed this course requirement. There is further information about these assignments on blackboard.

### *Group Presentations*

As part of the applied side of the course, we will discuss case studies of ethical issues in therapeutic practice and health promotion. The group presentation (4-5 persons each) will consist of a summary of the issue, an analysis from the various ethical perspectives covered in the earlier part of the class, and a "verdict" that assigns praise or blame and looks toward a resolution. We will then discuss each of these aspects. The presentations will be around 15 minutes long, with a 10-15 minutes discussion afterwards.

## READINGS

The only required book, available in physical and digital form from the bookstore, is the following:

Russ Schafer-Landau. 2020. *The Fundamentals of Ethics*. Fifth Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Referred to as "RSL" from now on]

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- use philosophical methods of argumentation

- assess various positions about the status of morality
- demonstrate an understanding of major philosophical theories
- apply general ethical principles to concrete situations
- critically analyze case studies from the practice of therapeutic recreation

## HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE

For most people, learning the concepts and ideas introduced in the course will require the following:

- Do all the readings before we discuss them in class, and usually again after.
- Regularly attend and participate in class.
- Ask questions, preferably in class, but alternatively by email or in office hours.
- Complete all the assignments.

## SCHEDULE

Sept. 10:	RSL, “Introduction”
Sept. 17:	RSL, Ch. 7 “Psychological Egoism” RSL, Ch. 8 “Ethical Egoism”
Sept. 24:	RSL, Ch. 19 “Ethical Relativism” RSL, Ch. 5 “Morality and Religion”
Oct. 1:	Enoch, “Why I am an Objectivist about Ethics”
Oct. 8:	<b>Exam 1</b>
Oct. 15:	RSL, Ch. 9 “Consequentialism: Its Nature and Attractions” RSL, Ch. 10, “Consequentialism: Its Difficulties”
Oct. 22:	RSL, Ch. 11 “The Kantian Perspective: Fairness and Justice” RSL, Ch. 12 “The Kantian Perspective: Autonomy and Respect”
Oct. 29:	RSL, Ch. 17 “Virtue Ethics”

RSL, Ch. 18 “Feminist Ethics”

Nov. 5:       **Exam 2**

Nov. 12:       *Issues in Recreation and Leisure*, Ch. 1 and Ch. 4, “Resolving Ethical Dilemmas”

Nov. 19:       *Issues in Recreation and Leisure*, Ch. 7, “Therapeutic Recreation”  
**Presentations**

Nov. 26:       *Issues in Recreation and Leisure*, Ch. 8, “Outdoor Recreation”  
**Presentations**

Dec. 3:        *Issues in Recreation and Leisure*, Ch. 10 and Ch. 11, “Professionalism in  
Recreation and Leisure”  
**Presentation Overflow**

### **Final Exam**

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, COMMITMENTS, AND POLICIES

### *Indigenous Acknowledgment*

We acknowledge that at Douglas College we live, learn, work and play on the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish Peoples of the Qayqayt and Kwikwetlem First Nations.

### *Commitment to Inclusivity*

Students are encouraged to discuss with me their own learning requirements and challenges, and any other difficulties they may have in this course, either during office hours or at other arranged times. Students who require the services of the Center for Students with Disabilities, or of Counselling Services, are entitled to them, and should avail themselves on either campus as early as possible.

### *Missed Exams*

Normally, your grade on a missed exam would be zero. However, makeup exams or quizzes are available in cases of sickness and extreme circumstances. This includes showing symptoms of Covid.

*Late Assignments*

There is a late assignment penalty of 5% a day (including weekend days), except in cases of sickness and other extreme circumstances.

*Academic Integrity*

This will be dealt with according to Douglas College policy. See the college website for details.