**PHIL 250A Contemporary Ethical Issues**
*3 Credits, 3 hours*

An examination of ethical questions of right and wrong, good and evil, and the application of ethical theories to practical issues.

## Instructor

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## Office Hours

| | |
|---|---|
| Wednesdays | 3:00pm – 4:00pm |
| Thursdays | 1:00pm-4:00pm |
| Fridays | 3:00pm – 4:00pm |
| (or by appointment) | |

## Hours of Instruction

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mondays | 10:30pm-11:50pm | S207/Teams |
| Wednesdays | 10:30pm-11:50pm | S207/Teams |

## Required Resources

A course package has been designed specifically for this course and is available via the campus bookstore.

## Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Differentiate between the main ethical theories.

2. Apply ethical theories to contemporary ethical issues.

3. Demonstrate the ability to write an argumentative term paper which includes scholarly academic research and properly adopts APA or MLA referencing.

## Evaluation

Students will be evaluated based on the completion of four assignments. These assignments include: a theory paper, an issue paper, a final exam and on-line discussion topics. Below is a brief description of each assignment, as well as relevant due dates. More detailed descriptions of each assignment will occur as we approach these assignments throughout the term.

| On-line Discussions | TBA | 15% |
|---|---|---|
| Theory Paper | 14 October | 20% |
| Issue Paper | 25 November | 30% |
| Final Exam | TBA | 35% |
| Total | | 100% |

*A grade of C- is required for progression or transfer.*

### On-line Discussions

At five points throughout the term I will post discussion topics for students to comment on. The total value of the assignment is 15%, and therefore 3% for every post. Your response does not have to be lengthy – between 100-300 words - but must exhibit understanding, clarity, accuracy, relevance and good reflections. Each topic will be available for only week and late submissions will not be accepted.

### Theory Paper

The theory paper should be between 5-7 pages (or 1500-2100 words) and offer a focused discussion of the ethical theories covered in class. A topics list will be provided for this paper to help guide students in their writing of the paper. Students must pick their term paper topic from this list or otherwise suffer a significant penalty. A basic format for the term paper, that also indicates the method evaluation, will be provided early in the term. The value of the term paper is 20% of the total grade.

### Issue Paper

The issue paper should be between 8-10 pages (or 2400-3000 words), and will focus on one of the ethical issues covered in class. This paper must contain two references from the course textbook and one external source. The external source must be a peer reviewed academic source. A topics list will be provided for the issue paper. Students must pick their term paper topic from this topic list or otherwise suffer a significant penalty. A basic format for the term paper, that also indicates the method evaluation, will be provided early in the term. The value of the term paper is 30% of the total grade.

### Final Exam

The final exam will cover only ethical issues and not the ethical theories. This exam will likely focus on essay questions or a combination of essay questions and written answer questions. More details will be offered concerning this exam as it approaches. The value of the final exam is 35% of the total grade.

### Grading System

| Descriptor | Alpha Grade | 4.0 Scale | Percent | Rubric for Letter Grades |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Excellent | A+ | 4.0 | > 92.9 | Work shows in-depth and critical analysis, well developed ideas, creativity, excellent writing, clarity and proper format. |
| | A | 4.0 | 85 – 92.9 | |
| | A- | 3.7 | 80 – 84.9 | |
| Good | B+ | 3.3 | 77 – 79.9 | Work is generally of high quality, well developed, well written, has clarity, and uses proper format. |
| | B | 3.0 | 74 – 76.9 | |
| | B- | 2.7 | 70 – 73.9 | |
| Satisfactory **Progression** | C+ | 2.3 | 67 – 69.9 | Work has some developed ideas but needs more attention to clarity, style and formatting. |
| | C | 2.0 | 64 – 66.9 | |
| | C- | 1.7 | 60 – 63.9 | |
| Poor | D+ | 1.3 | 55 – 59.9 | |

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| **Minimum Pass** | D | 1.0 | 50 – 54.9 | Work is completed in a general way with minimal support, or is poorly written or did not use proper format. |
| Failure | F | 0.0 | < 50 | Responses fail to demonstrate appropriate understanding or are fundamentally incomplete. |

**Proposed Schedule of Topics**

1. **Ethical Theories and Principles**
   Readings: Beauchamp and Walters, "Contemporary Issues in Bioethics, Sixth Edition," pp.12-18.
   Beauchamp and Childress, *Principles of Biomedical Ethics, Fourth Edition*," pp.120-128.

2. **Abortion**
   Readings: Browne and Sullivan, "Abortion in Canada," pp.287-291.
   Warren, "On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion," pp.106-117.
   Marquis, "Why Abortion is Immoral," pp.118-126.

3. **Free Speech**
   Readings: J. S. Mill, "Freedom of thought and discussion," pp.373-376
   J. Arthur, "Stick and Stones," pp.398-410.
   A. J. Cohen, "Psychological Harm and Free Speech on Campus," pp.320-325.

4. **Corporate Social Responsibility**
   Readings: Friedman, "The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase Its Profits," pp.50-55.
   Freeman, "A Stakeholder Theory of the Modern Corporation," pp.255-261.
   Goodpaster, "Business Ethics and Stakeholder Analysis," pp.205-220.

5. **Indigenous Rights in Canada**
   Readings: Turner, "White and Red Paper Liberalism," pp.160-169.
   Murray, "Liberalism, Aboriginal Rights, and the Canadian Moral Identity," pp.136-151.

6. **Terrorism**
   Readings: Khatchadourian, "Terrorism and Morality," pp.328-336.
   Wilkins, "Can Terrorism be Justified?" pp.337-344.

**Performance Requirements**

**Student Responsibilities**
It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the Keyano College credit calendar. The Keyano College credit calendar also has information about Student Rights and Code of Conduct. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Code of Conduct Policies.

**Student Attendance**
Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a student's learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the

administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams).  Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes.  Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and notes that may be due.

**Academic Misconduct**
Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity.  Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own;
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating);
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work;
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications;
- The willful distortion of results or data;
- Substitution in an examination by another person;
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment; and
- Breach of confidentiality.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College.  More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar.  It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Code of Conduct Policies.

In order to ensure your understanding of the concept of plagiarism, you must successfully complete the online tutorial found on ilearn.keyano.ca. Then print the certificate, sign it, and show it to each of your instructors. Your course work may not be graded until you show this signed certificate.

**Specialized Supports**

The Student Services department is committed to Keyano students and their academic success. There are a variety of student supports available at Keyano College. Due to the continuing situation with the Covid-19 pandemic, the offered support services will be implemented differently this semester by being provided mostly virtually. In-person service can be requested as needed. All Alberta Health Services guidelines will be followed for in-person appointments—wear a mask, maintain two meters of physical distance, use hand sanitizer, and stay home if you are unwell.

All student services are available during Keyano business hours: Monday to Friday, 8h30-16h30. The Library has evening and weekend hours. Please check keyano.ca/library for current hours.

**Accessibility Services:** provides accommodations for students with disabilities.  Students with documented disabilities, or who suspect a disability, can meet with a Learning Strategist to discuss their current learning barriers and possible accommodations. Students who have accessed accommodations in the past are encouraged to contact us to request them for the semester. Please note that requesting accommodations is a process and requires time to arrange. Contact us as soon as you know you may require accommodations. For accessibility services supports and to book a virtual appointment, please contact accessibility.services@keyano.ca.

Accessibility Services also provides individual and group learning strategy instruction for all students, as well as technology training and supports to enhance learning. Meet with a Learning Strategist to learn studying and test-taking strategies for online classes. Schedule an appointment with the Assistive Technology Specialist to explore technology tools for learning. Book an appointment today by emailing accessibility.services@keyano.ca

**Academic Success Coaching:** offers you support and access to resources for your academic success to help you to find the Keys to your Success.  The Academic Success Coach will work with you to develop an academic success plan, develop your study and time management skills, and connect you with the right resources here at Keyano.  Academic.success@keyano.ca is the best way to access resources during virtual service delivery.

**Wellness Services:** offers a caring, inclusive, and respectful environment where students can access free group and individual support to meet academic and life challenges. Mental Health Coordinators offer a safe and confidential environment to seek help with personal concerns. All individual appointments will continue virtually.

Wellness Services welcomes students to participate in any of the virtual group sessions offered throughout the academic year addressing topics including mindfulness and test anxiety.

Individual virtual appointments can be made by emailing wellness.services@keyano.ca.

**Library Services:** provides students with research and information supports as they engage in their studies. Library staff are available to support you both virtually and in person during the fall semester. For library service supports and inquiries, please email askthelibrary@keyano.ca.

Individual support with the Information Librarian will be provided virtually. Appointments can be requested by email or by placing a Book a Librarian request using the online form found here.

Research and Subject Guides are helpful resources when conducting research or addressing your information needs. To view a subject or course specific guide, use the following Subject Guides link

To access additional research resources, including Citation Guides (APA, MLA, Chicago, or IEEE), go to the Research Help Library page.

**Skill Centre:** provides academic support services to students registered in credit programs at Keyano College in the form of tutoring, writing support groups, facilitated study groups, workshops and study space. Tutoring services are **free** to Keyano students. Tutoring is available for Math, Writing, English, and Science subject areas.

While most courses are being offered online, the Skill Center will be offering mostly virtual tutoring services and in-person sessions as requested. Please email Skill.centre@keyano.ca to get in contact with our tutoring staff.

For the most up to date information on how to book a tutoring session, please view the Keyano Skill Centre homepage.

**E-Learning**

Technology and internet will impact your online learning experience. It's important that you are able to watch an online video and other course materials, take online quizzes, and participant in a live class with your instructor and other students.

Keyano College operates in a Windows based environment and having the correct tools for online learning is important.  Here's a list of recommended system requirements for Fall 2020.

**Internet Speed**

Minimum Internet speeds of 5 Mbps.
Recommended Internet speeds of 25 Mbps (especially if you are sharing your internet at home).
Check your internet speed with Fast.com.

**System requirements:**

| Microsoft Windows | Apple |
|---|---|
| **Minimum Requirements:**<br><br> A Windows 10 **computer/laptop**<br>· Minimum 4GB of RAM.<br><br>· 10GB+ available hard drive storage.<br><br>· Enough available hard drive space to install the Microsoft Office suite (approximately 3GB). Microsoft Office software is free to all Keyano students and employees.<br><br>· Microphone, webcam and speakers.  A headset with a microphone is recommended.<br><br>· System updates must be regularly installed.<br><br>· Anti-Virus / Anti-Malware software | **Minimum Requirements:**<br><br> A Macintosh (V10.14 and above) **computer/laptop**<br><br>· Minimum 4GB of RAM.<br><br>· 10GB+ available hard drive storage.<br><br>· Enough available hard drive space to install the Microsoft Office suite (approximately 3GB). Microsoft Office software is free to all Keyano students and employees.<br><br>· Microphone, webcam and speakers.  A headset with a microphone is recommended.<br><br>· System updates must be regularly installed.<br><br>· Anti-Virus / Anti-Malware software. |

| Recommended Requirements | Recommended Requirements |
|---|---|
| · 8GB of RAM | · 8GB of RAM |
| · A method of backing up/synchronizing to local or cloud-based storage such as OneDrive is highly recommended. This is included if you complete the setup of KeyanoMail and download MS Office using your Keyano email for free. | · A method of backing up/synchronizing to local or cloud-based storage such as OneDrive is highly recommended. This is included if you complete the setup of KeyanoMail and download MS Office using your Keyano email for free. |

Chromebooks are **not** recommended as they are not compatible with testing lockdown browsers.

A Microsoft Surface or iPad or iPad Pro may be possible alternatives in some program areas.

**Specific department requirements:**

Business and OA programs require Windows 10.

Other programs may utilize Windows based tools as well.

**Computer Software**
Students will be able to get access to Microsoft Office 365 for Free using Keyano Credentials by clicking here.

**Recording of lectures and Intellectual Property**
Students may only record a lecture if explicit permission is provided by the instructor or by Accessibility Services. Even if students have permission to record a lecture or lecture materials, students may not publish any of the lectures or lecture materials, this includes any recordings, slides, instructor notes, etc. on any platform. Thus no student is allowed to publish or sell instructor notes without formal written permission. It is important to recognize that the Canadian Copyright Act contains provisions for intellectual property.

**ITS Helpdesk**
If you are having issues with your student account, you can contact the ITS Helpdesk by emailing its.helpdesk@keyano.ca or calling 780-791-4965.

**Please watch your Keyano email for workshop announcements from our Student Services team.**