

Syllabus

Professor

Chris Heathwood

Office: Hellems 192

Office Hours: Mondays 10:00-1:00

Office Phone: (303-73) 5-0450

Email: heathwood@colorado.edu

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to and examination of some important and relevant topics in applied ethics, such as abortion, animal rights, affirmative action, human cloning, parent licensing, prostitution, world poverty, organ selling, and more. In each case, we will consider important positions on the topic and arguments for and against these positions.

The course aims to help you think more carefully and critically about these issues, and to come to more responsible views about them. These issues are not only interesting in their own right, they are important: they are relevant to what the law should be, how you should vote, which political campaigns you should and should not be supporting, and what general moral and political outlooks you adopt.

Website

Here is our website:

<http://spot.colorado.edu/~heathwoo/phil1200/>.

There you will find this syllabus, an account of what we did each day, additional required readings, reading questions, study guides, and other useful information.

Readings

One book is required:

David Boonin and Graham Oddie (eds.), *What's Wrong?: Applied Ethicists and Their Critics* (Oxford University Press). ISBN: 0-19-516761-9

It is available at the CU Bookstore.

Course Requirements

Exams: There will be three exams during the semester and a "take-over" exam during finals week (on Saturday, December 13 at 10:30 a.m.). Each exam will contain a variety of short answer questions. To help you prepare, and to give you an idea about the sorts of questions you can expect, a study guide will be made available before each exam.

The exam that will be held during finals week is not a cumulative exam. Instead, on this day you will be permitted to take over one of the three exams from the semester. Taking this take-over exam is optional, and it is up to you which exam you will take over. Your

grade on the take over exam will, if it is higher, replace the grade you received on the original exam. The take-over version of an exam will not contain the same questions as the original exam, but it will cover the same material.

If you must miss a scheduled exam, you must notify me before the exam. If you do this, and you have a legitimate, documented excuse, you may be permitted to take a make-up exam. If you miss an exam without a legitimate, documented excuse, you will receive a zero. Legitimate excuses include serious illness, death in the family, and religious obligations.

Paper: A short (2-4 page) term paper will be due the last week of classes. The paper will give you a chance to defend your own view about one of the topics discussed in the class (e.g., you can defend a positive position on one of our topics, or you can offer your own criticism of an argument defended in one of our readings). I'll have more to say about papers later. In the meantime, I recommend taking a look at my colleague's guide for writing philosophy papers:

<http://spot.colorado.edu/~huemer/writing.htm>.

Late papers will be penalized unless you have a legitimate, documented excuse.

Weekly Quizzes: You are required to read each assigned reading on time, to attend class, to ask questions, and to participate in discussions. There will be weekly pop quizzes designed to test whether you are doing these things. They are open-note, but not open-book. On the Readings page on the course website, you will find "reading questions" for each reading. Most of the questions on the pop quizzes will be pulled verbatim from here. Some other questions on these quizzes will pertain to what we have been discussing in lecture. If you keep up with the readings, take notes on it, write out answers to the reading questions, come to class, take notes in class, ask questions when you have them, and participate in class discussions, you will ace the quizzes. If you don't do these things, you will fail them. Quizzes, when they happen, will happen at the very beginning of class. Thus, if you are late, you will miss the quiz. If you miss a quiz without a legitimate, documented excuse, you will receive a zero on it.

Grading

Your final grade for the course will be determined according to the following scheme:

Exam 1	40 points
Exam 2	40 points
Exam 3	40 points
Paper	40 points
Quizzes	40 points

TOTAL	200 points

Recall that you will be permitted to take over one of the three exams.

We will use a standard “non-curved” grading scale, as follows:

185-200	A	175-179	B+	155-159	C+	135-139	D+	0-119	F
180-184	A-	165-174	B	145-154	C	120-134	D		
		160-164	B-	140-144	C-				

A Possible Course Schedule (subject to change)

Week 1:	Arguments; Abortion	
Week 2:	Abortion	
Week 3:	Abortion	[no class on this Thursday, September 11]
Week 4:	Animal Rights	
Week 5:	Parent Licensing	
Week 6:	Exam #1	
Week 7:	Prostitution	
Week 8:	Blackmail; Inheritance	
Week 9:	Affirmative Action	[guest lecturer this week: David Boonin]
Week 10:	Exam #2	
Week 11:	Famine Relief	
Week 12:	Selling Organs	
Week 13:	Cloning	
	[Thanksgiving Break]	
Week 14:	Exam #3	
Week 15:	Paper Due Tuesday, December 9	
Finals Week:	Take-Over Exam: Saturday, December 13, 10:30 a.m.	

*** There will be **no class Thursday, September 11**, as I will be out of town fighting the good fight. ***

Academic Integrity

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/.

Anyone caught violating the academic integrity policy (in any way) will automatically receive an F for this course, and may be subject to expulsion from the university.

Disability Services

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices.

Religious Observances

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance. Please let me know well in advance about any such conflicts, so we can resolve them. Your class participation grade will not be negatively affected due to such conflicts. For more information about the university's policies on these matters, see www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

Discrimination and Harassment

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at www.colorado.edu/odh.