

Time: MW 3:20 - 5:10

Place: KH 103

Instructor: Emrys Westacott

Office: Kanakadea Hall

Office Hours: MTWR 1:15 - 2:15 and by appt.

Coffee Hour: Thurs 2:45 - 3:45 at the Terra Cotta

Phone: 871-2790

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### **Course Description**

In this course we will use the tools of philosophical analysis to examine a number of moral issues that arise for most people in the normal course of everyday life. Topics to be discussed will include such issues as gossiping, rudeness, snobbery, loyalty, respect, humor, taking offence, tipping, flirting, gift-giving, forgiveness, workplace ethics, the ethics of consumption, lifestyle choices, civic responsibility and our conception of the good life. We will approach these issues both analytically (seeking to deepen our understanding of the problem) and normatively (trying to work out the right thing to do).

### **Course Objectives**

- To deepen our understanding and appreciate the complexity of ethical issues that crop up in daily life
- To clarify how we think we should behave in morally challenging situations
- To think more precisely and rigorously about practical ethical issues
- To become more self aware about the values and assumptions that underlie our approach to moral questions
- To better understand general features of our culture and the historical changes it is going through as these are revealed through an examination of ethical issues

### **Texts**

Readings will consist entirely of articles and excerpts from books. Most of these will be made available through the class web page, or e-mailed as pdfs, but some may be photocopied and distributed in class.

### **Attendance and participation**

Regular attendance, and thorough preparation before class are expected. In a course of this sort, based on seminar style discussions more than on lectures, full participation by class members is especially important for the course to succeed.

## **Requirements and Grading**

Short paper (approx. 1500 words)	- 25%
Research paper (approx 3000 words)	- 50%
Class presentation	- 10%
Class participation	- 15%

## **Attendance and Participation**

A good deal of class time will be spent in discussion, both in small groups and as a class. Such discussion is essential to the aims of the course. The grade awarded for class participation will be based on attendance, preparedness, engagement, and quality of contributions. Regular attendance is required.

## **Written work**

The written work your submit will be graded according to criteria of accuracy, clarity, precision, analytic depth, originality, and stylistic correctness. Alfred University's policies on plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are explained in the [Undergraduate Academic Regulations](#). You are responsible for knowing what plagiarism and how to avoid it.

## **Incompletes and Withdrawals**

Incompletes will not be given to allow students to work for higher grades. If you wish to withdraw from the course you must notify me and complete the necessary paperwork. Students who stop attending class but fail to drop or withdraw from the course will receive an F.

## **Tutor Services/Requests**

The office of Special Academic Services offers personalized help in the form of individual and group tutoring. Please contact Beth Niles at (607) 871-2148 for more information.

## **Students with Disabilities**

Alfred University is committed to upholding and maintaining all aspects of the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If you are a student with a disability and wish to request accommodations, please contact Dr. Aubrey Elmore at the Office of Special Academic Services located in Crandall Hall, or call (607) 871-2148. Any information regarding your disability will remain confidential. Many accommodations require early planning; therefore requests for accommodations should be made as early as possible. Any requests for accommodations will be reviewed in a timely manner to determine their appropriateness to this setting.