

COURSE OUTLINE

PH 1600: CONTEMPORARY MORAL
ISSUES

SEP 1993

W. 95

Registrar's
Office

Instructor: John O. Langenbach
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Text: Olen & Barry, Applying Ethics, Wadsworth, 1992

Course Objectives:

1. Introduce students to basic ethical theory;
2. Introduce students to the major arguments surrounding selected contemporary moral issues;
3. Improve student's ability to read and write analytically;
4. Improve student's ability to present strong argument; and
5. Encourage student's interest in original and creative thought.

Course Schedule:

The following topics will be covered.

1. Introduction to ethical theory
2. Abortion
3. Euthanasia
4. Capital Punishment
5. Job Discrimination
6. Animal Rights
7. Environmental Ethics
8. Sexual Morality
9. Pornography

Assignments:

1. Three essays of about 1,000 words each. Marks will be lost on any essay over 1,200 words. Each essay is worth 25% of the course grade.
2. A final exam worth 25% of the course grade. This exam is about two hours long and will be taken during final exam week. Do not ask to take this exam early. Schedule your summer activities according to the final week requirements.

Essay Protocol:

1. Essays shall be typed;
2. Essays are due in class on the date assigned;
3. Late essays will be penalized one stanine per day of lateness;
4. Your first essay may be rewritten for a higher mark. This privilege is lost where the first essay is not handed in on time.
5. Students will write on those, and only those topics contracted for by the end of the third week of class.

Grading Criteria:

Both philosophical merit and composition will be graded. Normally, philosophical merit will count for more than composition, but it is conceivable that one could receive a failing mark on an essay purely on the basis of poor writing.