

## PHIL 3711 - General Ethics

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 02, CRN 42621,

Credit hours: 3

### Instructor

**Mark Vopat**

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### Public Instructor Information

Title: Distinguished Professor of Philosophy

Professional Qualifications:

*Ph.D., Philosophy, The University of Western Ontario*

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### Course Description

3711. General Ethics. Examination and evaluation of the major ethical theories in classical, dialectic, pragmatic and naturalistic, analytic and positivist, and existentialist thought. Prereq.: PHIL 1560. 3 s.h.

### Course Readings

| Group    | Title                                                                       | Author                | ISBN |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------|
| Required | Ethical Theory: A Concise Anthology<br>3rd edition by Geirsson and Holmgren | Geirsson and Hologram |      |

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

### Readings and Assignments

| Week of | Reading(s)                    | Proposed Topic      | Due/To Prepare for Class          |
|---------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 8/24    | Introduction to Course/Ethics | Course Overview     | No assignment                     |
| 8/31    | Shaw/Harman                   | Relativism          | Shaw Thesis                       |
| 9/7     | Fins/Wolf                     | Free Will           | Wolf Thesis                       |
| 9/14    | Plato/Bible                   | Religion and Ethics | Story of Abraham Thesis<br>Exam 1 |
| 9/21    | Mill/Rawls                    | Utilitarianism      | Mill Thesis                       |
| 9/28    | Singer/Le Guin                | Utilitarianism      | Singer Thesis                     |
| 10/5    | Kant/O'Neill                  | Deontology          | O'Neill Thesis                    |
| 10/12   | Thompson/Nagel                | Trolley Problem     | Thompson Thesis<br>Exam 2         |
| 10/19   | Ross/Kekes                    | Intuitionism        | Kekes Thesis                      |
| 10/26   | Hood/Sinnott-Armstrong        | Pluralism           | No assignment                     |
| 11/2    | Aristotle                     | Virtue Ethics       | No assignment                     |
| 11/9    | Dorge/Wolf                    | Moral Saints        | Wolf Thesis                       |

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|-------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11/16 | Lindemann/Noddings | Feminist Ethics      | Noddings Thesis                                                   |
| 11/23 | Shrage             | Feminist/Care Ethics | No Assignment                                                     |
| 11/30 | TBA                | Review               | Due 12/4 at 11:59pm:<br>Extra Credit: Shipka Speaker<br>Paper Due |
| 12/7  | Finals Week        |                      |                                                                   |

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.