

**University of Regina**  
**Luther College Department of Philosophy**  
**Philosophy 272—L41 Contemporary Moral Issues**  
**Spring 2017**

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**Course Description:** This course introduces students to some of the ways to think critically about contemporary moral issues. Some of these issues could include animal rights, the environment, abortion, euthanasia, free speech and terrorism, but students typically have some input into what we cover. While emphasis is placed on analyzing arguments, we will also be thinking rather broadly about the normative issues within these larger debates. On the personal side, this course aims at developing in the student a philosophical empathy and logic. But this empathy is, I would maintain, the starting point for any ethical analysis. By way of ethical theories and a general philosophical orientation to these issues, students will acquire a practical facility to make ethical recommendation in policy matters. It is hoped that students develop a finer appreciation of the complexity and difficulty (perhaps impossibility) of solving these issues and some practical ability to apply ethical theories and thinking to other similar problems. It is also hoped that students develop a broader way of thinking that integrates or relates emotion and logic.

**Textbook:** *Ethical Issues: Perspectives For Canadians. 3rd Edition. Edited by Eldon Soifer. Broadview Press. 2009.*

**Course Requirements:**

Item	Value	Due Date
Midterm Examination	25%	TBA, week of May 22 or 29th
Term Paper/Project	30%	End of Term/June 21st
Participation	10-15%	Attendance in part
Final Examination	35%	Scheduled for June 26th

**Course Outline/Website:** In the next couple of days an outline for this course, specifying what is covered and at what pace, will appear on my website. This will appear on the webpage for this course. Students are required to use this website to secure the course outline, other resources and documents for this course and are urged to familiarize themselves with my policies, which can be visited from my main page.