



REL 2174: SOCIAL ETHICS

ANNA PETERSON

Section: 07FC

Term: Fall 2013

3 Credits

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Email: annap@ufl.edu	Office Hours: will be posted by the start of classes
Phone: 352-273-2936	Skype: annapeterson3

- Please post general questions on the Course Questions discussion board (the type of thing that you would raise your hand in class to ask.) This is the fastest way to get your questions answered.
- For personal or grade questions, please e-mail Dr. Peterson or make an appointment by e-mail to speak with her on Skype or telephone.
- If you need to meet in person, please make an appointment via email.

COURSE WEBSITE: <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Social ethics involves rigorous, careful reflection on the ways that moral ideas and practices are embodied in collective contexts. It asks about the shape of a good society, the relationship between individual and social values, and the ways that institutions and practices contribute to social goods. In order to explore these questions we class begin in this class with basic concepts, thinkers, and theoretical frameworks in social ethics. We then turn to the moral dimensions of contemporary social issues, including war and peace, economic justice, science and technology, and environmental sustainability. Throughout the course, we will learn about and discuss diverse religious and philosophical traditions, in order to understand different dimensions of particular problems and also to identify important aspects of ethical reflection, argument, and decision-making.

In discussions and written assignments, students will be encouraged to think critically about ethical claims and to analyze the arguments supporting these claims, the conditions that facilitate or hinder constructive dialogue and problem-solving, and the values underlying different arguments.

PREREQUISITES

Course Prerequisites: none

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Reading: Anthony Weston, *A 21st Century Ethical Toolbox* (Oxford University Press) and additional materials posted on Sakai.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Religious Observance: Please check your calendars against the course schedule. Any student having a conflict in the exam schedule, or feeling that they will be disadvantaged by missing a lesson or course requirement due to religious observance, should contact me as soon as possible so that we can make necessary arrangements.

Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that all qualified persons have equal opportunity and access to education regardless of a disabling condition. Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should (1) register with and provide documentation to the Disability Resource Center and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating your need academic accommodations. **This should be done in the first week of class.** Please let me know as soon as possible if you have a disabling condition and would be helped by arranging alternate conditions for the course and/or for the evaluation process.

GRADING SCALE

Point Scale	Scale	Grade	Grade Point	Points Scale	Scale	Grade	Grade Point
771-820	94-100%	A	4.0	598-630	73-76%	C	2.0
738-770	90-93%	A-	3.67	574-590	70-72%	C-	1.67
713-737	87-89%	B+	3.33	549-573	67-69%	D+	1.33
680-712	83-86%	B	3.0	517-548	63-66%	D	1.0
656-679	80-82%	B-	2.67	492-516	60-62%	D-	0.67
631-655	77-79%	C+	2.33	<491	<59%	E	0.0

REQUIREMENTS

Assignment Type	Description	Points Each	Total %
Discussion Posts (weekly)	<p>Much of the learning in this course will come from group discussions using the Discussion tool in e-learning. Before engaging in the on-line discussions, you should think back to the readings and other activities associated with the module. You should then think about how the discussion prompts relate to those readings and activities. Your answers to the questions should, where possible, make reference to the readings or other activities. Your answers should not be mere opinion but informed opinion, referring to readings, films, and other course materials in detail.</p> <p>Use the Discussion tool in Sakai to post a paragraph or two in response to the prompt that is original, academic, and supported by the course materials.</p>	15	15
Discussion Responses to Peers (at least 2 weekly)	2 thoughtful responses (a few sentences) to one different classmate's Discussion Posts for each forum.	5	5
Blog (weekly)	Weekly blog posts to be completed by midnight on Friday each week, on an assigned topic related to the weeks' readings and themes. Blog posts should be academic, clear, well-written, and well-argued. They should NOT be stream of consciousness or mere expression of opinion or feelings. Each blog post should be at least 250 words, answering the specific question asked each week and also the implied question: "Why or why not?" Whenever possible, provide concrete examples to support your arguments. Your blog posts should build on each other as a way to develop your own ethical framework. You can refer to past posts as well as to course readings in your blog. The blog will be handed in as a portfolio at the end of the class.	20	20
Module 1-2 exam	This exam will include short essays and other short-answer written responses. It will cover all the readings and other assigned media for modules 1 and 2.	15	15
Module 3 exam	This exam will include short essays and other short-answer written responses. It will cover all readings and assignments for Module 3.	15	15
Final exam	This exam will include short essays and other short-answer written responses. It will cover all readings and assignments from Modules 4 and 5.	15	15

Book review	Review of an ethics book, chosen based on instructions provided by the instructor. Book review will be at least 2000 words in length and follow assigned format.	15	15
Handbook Quiz	Quiz on the Handbook pages found on the Course Materials Page. No points given, but if you do not pass this quiz you will be required to write a report on the subject.		C/N
FINAL PROJECT	Hand in complete blog as a single document with a short (2-3 page) reflection on the project as a whole.		
Total			100

ACADEMIC HONESTY

If several students habitually begin the test at the same time, or if other digital evidence provided by Sakai suggests that students have attempted to cheat by cooperating then students suspected of dishonesty may be offered a chance to retake an in-person proctored exam without the benefit of notes or textbooks in order to verify their knowledge of the material. Cheating is a violation of the **honor code and may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.**

UF POLICIES

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>.

NETIQUETTE: COMMUNICATION COURTESY: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. <http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

Be sure to read the pages in the links on the course materials page. If you have a general course question, please post it on the discussion board.

For issues with technical difficulties **for e-Learning in Sakai, please contact the UF Help Desk at:**

- helpdesk@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues **MUST** be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You **MUST** e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.