

LYDIA DU BOIS  
APPLIED ETHICS

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**SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE**

Applied Ethics

This is a proposed design for a course and not one I have already taught. It is to be adapted to suit nature of particular class and to be in line with the relevant department goals and guidelines.

Course description: The purpose of this class will be to try and answer this challenge: What can philosophy and philosophers do to help us navigate the world? When time is of the essence or when we are afraid or when we are bereaved or exhausted, how can philosophy help us make decisions or help us know how to behave? What can philosophers say that will help us in wartime? Is philosophy of any use as we run medical trials or decide whether to have children? We will look at the atrocities of war, the complexity of culture, and the project of living and dying well alongside those with whom we share the world.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
1		Introduction and philosophers' toolkit
2	<u>A challenge for philosophers</u>	Classic thought experiments Film: <i>Tsotsi</i> (2005) Dir.: Hood, G., Starring: Chweneyagae, P. and Pheto, T.
3	<u>War and conflict: Genocide and rape</u> Question: Do rules change during war time?	Selections from: Card, Claudia (2002) <i>The Atrocity Paradigm</i>
4	<u>War and conflict: Torture and terrorism</u> Do war or an enemy threat justify terrible things?	Selections from: Card, Claudia (2010) <i>Confronting Evils: Terrorism, Torture, Genocide</i>
5	<u>Culture</u> Question: Does one size fit all?	Nussbaum, Martha (2002) <i>Sex and Social Justice</i> Ch. 4: Judging Other Cultures
6	<u>Culture (continued)</u> Question: Does one size fit all?	Wiredu, Kwasi (2005) "On the Idea of a Global Ethic"
7	Food for thought and break from reading.	Film: <i>Persepolis</i> (2007) Dir.: Satrapi, M. and Paronnaud, V., Starring: Mastroianni, C. and Deneuve, C.
8	<u>Living well: To be</u> Question: Do we have an	Bortolotti, Lisa (2009) "Do We Have an Obligation to Make Smarter Babies?"

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	obligation to make the best new people we can?	
9	<u>Living well: Not to be</u> Question: Is it selfish to make new people?	Selections from: Benatar, David (2006) <i>Better Never to Have Been: The Harm of Coming Into Existence</i>
10	<u>Living well: To live</u> Question (continued from last week): When we make new people, what sorts of harm can come to them?	Selections from Card, Claudia (1996) <i>The Unnatural Lottery: Character and Moral Luck</i>
11	<u>Dying well: Dignity and autonomy</u> Question: Is it wrong not to protect others?	Epicurus (1994) Inwood, Brad; Gerson, Lloyd P., eds. <i>The Epicurus Reader. Selected Writings and Testimonia</i> Venter, Francois., Allais, Lucy. & Richter, Marlise. (2014). Exposure Ethics: Does HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Raise Ethical Problems for the Health Care Provider and Policy Maker?
12	<u>Living with others: Other animals</u> A big question: Is not acting wrongly the same as living well?	Wallace, David Foster "Consider the Lobster" Foer, Jonathan Safran (2009) <i>Eating Animals</i> Introduction and Chapter 1
13	<u>Revisiting the challenge</u> Another big question: Who's to say? Or, who are we to say?	Selections from: Williams, Bernard (1985) <i>Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy</i>
14		Conclusion

Component	Portion of Grade
Writing reflections (1-2 pages each) x 6	30%
Presentation (including topic proposal)	20%
Term paper (including topic proposal and draft)	35%
Attendance, participation, and completion of ungraded in-class assignments or short homework assignments	15%