Grading Breakdown

Participation (15%)
Regular contribution and engagement in class discussion is an important part of the philosophical process. The highest participation grades will be given to those who engage with their fellow classmates’ ideas. Meaningful contributions can be anything from sharing your thoughts about the text, to asking a question, to responding to a classmate, or simply asking me to clarify a term.

Discussion Posts (20%)
Every week, there will be a discussion post on the topic of the week. Discussion posts all follow the same formula: First you watch a video, then you answer three to five questions about that video in a comment in the discussion thread, then you write a comment on another student’s response to the question. You will not be graded on getting everything exactly right; I am primarily looking for a good faith effort to engage with the material.

Quizzes (20%)
There will be four quizzes submitted electronically. The format will be four questions over the readings and lectures from that section consisting of three multiple choice questions each worth 1 point and one extended response question worth 2 points.

Midterm Paper (20%)
The first paper will be a maximum four page (1000 word) paper on Metaethics, Poverty, or War. Your goal is to establish a philosophically interesting thesis and defend it with good reasons, and consider at least one objection. Topics include but are not limited to these questions: Which theory of right action is most plausible? Can virtue ethics provide a plausible theory of right action? Are we morally required to prevent/ameliorate poverty? Do impoverished people have a right to our aid? Is violence ever justified, and if so, under what circumstances? When are military interventions morally obligatory (if ever)?

Final Paper (25%)
The final paper will be a maximum five page (1250 word) paper on Abortion, Animal Ethics or the Environment. Your goal is to establish a philosophically interesting thesis, defend it with good reasons, and respond to at least one objection. Topics include but are not limited to these questions: Does personhood matter for the moral permissibility of abortion? Is abortion permissible under any circumstances? Is the practice of raising and killing animals for food morally permissible? Do animals have rights? What are our obligations toward the environment? Is there any reason (independent of our rational self-interest) to care about or value the environment?

Grading
Grades are calculated on the following scale:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<td>B</td>
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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 - ETHICAL THEORIES
May 19 - Consequentialism & Deontology
  Diane Jeske - Do the Ends Justify the Means?
May 21 - Virtue Ethics
  Rosalind Hursthouse - Are Virtues the Proper Starting Point for Morality?
  Quiz 1 Due 5/22 at 11:59 PM

WEEK 2 - POVERTY
May 26 - Suffering
  Peter Singer - Famine, Affluence, and Morality
  Arthur - Rights and Duties to Bring Aid
May 29 - Natural Resources
  Leif Wenar - Property Rights and the Resource Curse
  Quiz 2 Due 5/29 at 11:59 PM

WEEK 3 - WAR
June 2 - Humanitarian Intervention
  Jovana Davidovic - Are Humanitarian Military Interventions Obligatory?
June 4 - Pacifism & Feminism
  Lucinda Peach - An Alternative to Pacifism? Feminism and Just-War Theory

Midterm Paper on Metaethics, Poverty, or War Due 6/6 at 11:59 PM

WEEK 4 - ABORTION
June 9 - Killing and Letting Die
  Judith Jarvis Thomson - A Defense of Abortion
  Philippa Foot - Killing and Letting Die
June 11 - Persons, Non-Persons, and Potential Persons
  Mary Anne Warren - On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion
  Don Marquis - An Argument that Abortion is Wrong
  Quiz 3 Due 6/12 at 11:59 PM

WEEK 5 - ANIMAL ETHICS
June 16 - Speciesism
  Peter Singer - All Animals are Equal
June 18 - Animal Rights
  Carl Cohen - The Case Against Animal Rights
  Tom Regan - The Case for Animal Rights
  Quiz 4 Due Friday, 6/19 at 11:59 PM

WEEK 6 - THE ENVIRONMENT
June 23 - Conservation
  Kate Rawles - Conservation and Animal Welfare
June 25 - Environmental Virtue Ethics
  Rosalind Hursthouse - Environmental Virtue Ethics

Final Paper on Abortion, Animal Ethics, or the Environment Due 6/27 at 11:59 PM

CLAS TEACHING POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Absences and Attendance Students are responsible for attending class and for contributing to the learning environment of a course. Students are also responsible for knowing their course absence policies, which will vary by instructor. All absence policies, however, must uphold the UI policy related to student illness, mandatory religious obligations, including Holy Day obligations, unavoidable circumstances, or University authorized activities (https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/attendance-absences). Students may use this absence form to aid communication; the instructor will decide if the absence is excused or unexcused https://clas.uiowa.edu/sites/default/files/ABSENCE%20EXPL%20ATION%20F%20%20FORM2019.pdf

Academic Integrity All undergraduates enrolled in courses offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty. Misconduct is reported to the College, resulting in suspension or other sanctions, with sanctions communicated with the student through the UI email address (https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/academic-fraud-honor-code).

Accommodations for Disabilities UI is committed to an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (such as mental health, attention, learning, vision, and physical or health-related condition) by registering with Student Disability Services (SDS). The student is then responsible for discussing specific accommodations with the instructor. More information is at https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/.

Administrative Home of the Course The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the administrative home of this course and governs its add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and related policies. Other colleges may have different policies. CLAS policies may be found here: https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook.

Communication and the Required Use of UI Email Students are responsible for official correspondences sent to the UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for all communication within UI (Operations Manual, III.15.2).

Complaints Students with a complaint about an academic issue should first visit with the instructor or course supervisor and then with the Chair of the department or program offering the course. The Philosophy Department Chair is David Cunning. His fall 2019 office hours are Wed 11:30-1:30 and Th 12-1, in EPB 257; he can be contacted at david-cunning@uiowa.edu.

UI is committed to making the classroom a respectful and inclusive space for all people irrespective of their gender, sexual, racial, religious or other identities. Toward this goal, students are invited to optionally share their preferred names and pronouns with their instructors and classmates. The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination and harassment against individuals on the basis of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and other identity categories set forth in the University’s Human Rights policy. For more information, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity (diversity.uiowa.edu).

Sexual Harassment Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community must uphold the UI mission and contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment must be reported immediately. For assistance, please see https://osmrc.uiowa.edu/.