

Modern Political Issues(P0 1030)

M 6:30-9:20

Instructor: Peter Blaikie

Course

This course focuses on a number of contemporary moral/political issues, including abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, pornography, affirmative action etc. Students will also gain a clearer understanding of commonly used terms in a liberal democracy such as liberty, rights, obligations and justice. As the course proceeds, students will improve their capability to discuss important ethical issues with friends and family.

Grading

midterm-30%

paper-30%

final-40%

Texts

Narveson(N) Moral Matters

Arthur (ed.) (A) Morality and Moral Controversies(1996)

Readings

The following readings may be added to and/or appended from time to time.

1. Review of Politics: Approaching Moral Matters

N-ch. 1; A-pp.1-5,21-29,103-119

2. Classical Political/Moral Theories

A-pp.30-73

3. Liberty and Free Expression

A-pp.99-102, 314-325,341-350,551-563

4. Positive Rights

N-ch.7,12

A-pp.138-150,243-258,276-306

5. Pornography

N-ch.11

A-pp.564-574

6. Suicide and Euthanasia

N-ch.2-3

A-pp.161-182

7. Abortion

N-ch.9

A-pp.183-211

8. Capital Punishment

N-ch.4

A-pp.377-397

9. Justice, Political Obligation and Civil Disobedience

N-ch.13

A-pp.247-275,351-371

10. War

N-ch.5

A-pp. 212-234