PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM

Dr Paula Sweeney (Course Co-ordinator and Lecturer)
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Dr. Stephan Torre (Lecturer)
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Discipline Administration:
Mrs Lisa Evans
50-52 College Bounds
COURSE DESCRIPTION
In this course we will be examining a wide-ranging series of controversial questions:
- Is being a good or a bad person a matter of luck? And if being bad is just a matter of (bad) luck, are we justified in punishing bad people?
- What is the meaning of life?
- Should we be able to modify the genes of our offspring in order to avoid the transmission of genetic disease? Should we be able to modify genes responsible for appearance, intelligence or athletic ability?
- Do you have a moral obligation to help those who are worse-off than you, even if this means donating a lot—or even most—of your money to charity?
- Do animals have rights? If so, is eating animals immoral? And can we ever be justified in using them for experiments?
- Should there be limits on the freedom of speech on individuals?

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
Students will acquire knowledge of central debates in contemporary philosophy and of key philosophical questions about animal rights, the obligations of a national health service, euthanasia, moral luck and other controversial topics. Students will understand the main ideas in each of these debates and will be able to explain differences between various positions in these debates. Students will critically engage with primary texts and will
articulate the results of their learning clearly and systematically in written form and in discussion.

**LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME**

There will be two lectures per week and, beginning from Week 2, one tutorial per week. It is your responsibility to sign up to one of the available tutorial slots. Once you have chosen your slot, please attend only the tutorial in that slot: not attending your chosen tutorial can create difficulties for your lecturers and fellow students. Here is a schedule of lectures (subject to change):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>12 September 2016-16 September 2016</td>
<td>Is it morally wrong to eat meat?</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>19 September 2016-23 September 2016</td>
<td>Should we experiment on animals?</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>26 September 2016-30 September 2016</td>
<td>Is there objective morality without God?</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>03 October 2016-07 October 2016</td>
<td>Are we doing something wrong by not donating all our extra time and money to those far less fortunate than ourselves?</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>10 October 2016-14 October 2016</td>
<td>Should we be able to modify the genetic make-up of our offspring?</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>17 October 2016-21 October 2016</td>
<td>Are we obliged to allow others to live in our country?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>24 October 2016-28 October 2016</td>
<td>Is being a good or a bad person a matter of luck?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>31 October 2016-04 November 2016</td>
<td>Should euthanasia be permitted? Do we have the right to end our own lives?</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>07 November 2016</td>
<td>What is the meaning of life and what is there to fear in death?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Topic</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 November 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>14 November 2016-18 November 2016</td>
<td>Should we place limits on the freedom of speech of individuals?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>21 November 2016-25 November 2016</td>
<td>Controversial Questions in Philosophy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**READING LIST**
See MyAberdeen for compulsory reading lists for tutorials and for suggested further reading.

**ASSESSMENT**
1st Attempt: One 1500-word essay (50%) and one take-home exam (50%).

Resit: One 1500-word essay (100%). In line with School Policy, failure to submit a component piece of assessed work, or submitting a token piece, will result in the withdrawal of the class certificate (students are not eligible for resit).

To view the CGS Descriptors please go to MyAberdeen - Organisations - Divinity, History, & Philosophy Student Information for Undergraduates. The link to the CGS Descriptors is on the left hand menu.

**PLEASE NOTE:** In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

**ESSAYS**
Your essay should be 1500 words long plus or minus 10% (i.e. strictly between 1350 and 1650 words), including quotations and footnotes but not including bibliography. You may be penalised for work whose word count falls outside of this range. Essays are due by 3pm on Friday October 28th. Extensions will
be granted on medical grounds only and proof of grounds will be required. To ask for an extension, please contact Dr Sweeney before the essay deadline. **No extension will be given if you ask after the deadline.** Please note that late submission will be penalized in accord with the rules set out in the Undergraduate Handbook.

Essay topics will be provided in due course and will be available on the MyAberdeen pages of the course.

**ASSESSMENT DEADLINES**

The deadline for the essay is 3pm on Friday 28th October.
The deadline for the take-home exam is to be determined. You will be notified of the take-home deadline in lecture and via MyAberdeen.

**SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

When uploading assignments, please do the following:

Submit by the due date, no hard copy will be required unless directly requested by the Course Coordinator through My Aberdeen.

In advance of uploading, please save the assignment with your student ID number listed in the filename, i.e. 59999999 PHxxxx Essay 1.

When asked to enter a title for the assignment, please enter a title identical to the name of your saved assignment, i.e. 59999999 PHxxxx Essay 1.

If you have been granted an extension, please upload the completed Extension Form (signed by yourself and course coordinator) along with your submission.

When you submit your work please also tick the ‘Mark Reviewed’ Box.

**Please note: Failure to submit by the due date (unless a prior arrangement has been made) will result in a deduction of marks. Where no submission is received, this will result in a mark of zero.**

Please note: During 2016/2017 the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy has agreed to take part in a pilot. This means for level 1 submissions
SafeAssign text matching software will be used, other levels we will continue to use TurnitinUK. Other schools will also continue to use TurnitinUK.

EXAMINATION

This course has a take-home exam (50%) that will require short essay responses to two questions. Further details about the take-home exam will be made available in lecture and through MyAberdeen.

Past exam papers can be viewed at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/. 