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

The main point of contact for the course will be Dr Stephan Torre. Lecturing will be split between Dr Torre (weeks 1-5), Professor Vikki Entwistle and Dr Rebecca Brown (week 6) and Dr Paula Sweeney (weeks 7-11).

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Dr Paula Sweeney
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Tel: 01224 272357
Discipline Administration:
Miss Lisa Roberts
50-52 College Bounds
Room CB001
01224 273986
philosophy@abdn.ac.uk

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?

- Should anyone be able to set limits on what you can do with your own body, even if these limits are ‘for your own good’? And can a justified autonomy over one’s own body also justify euthanasia?
- What makes a sexual act perverted?

- Should a national health service fund fertility treatments?

- 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?

- Are you unknowingly biased against underprivileged groups such as ethnic minorities and women? Are we morally justified in using affirmative action to combat discrimination against the underprivileged?

- Should candidates from under-represented groups be given preferential treatment in hiring decisions?

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will acquire knowledge of central debates in contemporary philosophy and of key philosophical questions about animal rights, discrimination, the obligations of a national health service, bodily autonomy, 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>14 September 2015-18 September 2015</td>
<td>Is it morally wrong to eat meat?</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>21 September 2015-25 September 2015</td>
<td>Should we experiment on animals?</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>28 September 2015-02 October 2015</td>
<td>Is there objective morality without God?</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>05 October 2015-09 October 2015</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>12 October 2015-16 October 2015</td>
<td>Should we be able to modify the genetic make-up of our offspring?</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>19 October 2015-23 October 2015</td>
<td>Should a national health service fund fertility treatments?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>26 October 2015-30 October 2015</td>
<td>Is being a good or a bad person a matter of luck?</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>02 November 2015-06 November 2015</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>09 November 2015-13 November 2015</td>
<td>Should candidates from under-represented groups be given preferential treatment in hiring decisions?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>16 November 2015-20 November 2015</td>
<td>Are you unknowingly biased against underprivileged groups such as ethnic minorities and women?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>23 November 2015-27 November 2015</td>
<td>What’s makes a sexual act perverted?</td>
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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).

Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).
Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).

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. You may be penalised for work whose word count falls outside of this range. Essays are due by 3pm on Friday October 23rd. To ask for an extension, please contact Dr Torre before the essay deadline. Please note that late submission will be penalized in accord with the rules set out in the Undergraduate Handbook.

ESSAY TOPICS
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 23 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
Submit one paper copy with a completed essay cover sheet to the drop boxes in CB008 in 50-52 College Bounds and one electronic copy to Turnitin via MyAberdeen. Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.
Please note: Failure to submit both an electronic copy to TurnitinUK and an identical paper copy, with the digital receipt attached, will result in a deduction of marks.
Failure to submit to TurnitinUK will result in a zero mark.

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.