

DEMS 3707: ETHICS: SOCIETY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTERS

Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University

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(1) COURSE DIRECTOR:

Professor David Etkin, etkin@yorku.ca. When emailing the course director, please include the phrase “DEMS3707” in the email subject line, followed by your name and a brief reason for the email.

Office Hours: By appointment via ZOOM or phone, to be arranged by email.

The grader for this course is Moira Hennebury
moirah@yorku.ca



(2) PLATFORMS:

Please note that all classes will be held via ZOOM. In addition to a stable, high-speed internet connection, students will need a computer with webcam and microphone, and/or a smart device with these features.

Several platforms will be used in this course (primarily eClass and Zoom) through which students will interact with the course materials, the course director/TA, as well as with one another. Please review this syllabus to determine how the class meets (in whole or in part), and how office hours and presentations will be conducted.

Please note:

- Zoom is hosted on servers in the U.S. This includes recordings done through Zoom.
- If you have privacy concerns about your data, provide only your first name or a nickname when you join a session.
- The system is configured in a way that all participants are automatically notified when a session is being recorded. In other words, a session cannot be recorded without you knowing about it.
- Please review the technology requirements and FAQs for Moodle.

Course Website: <https://eclass.yorku.ca/eclass/course/edit.php?id=4710>

(3) USEFUL LINKS FOR STUDENT COMPUTING INFORMATION, RESOURCES AND HELP:

- [Student Guide to Moodle](#)
- [Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#)
- [Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#)
- [Computing for Students Website](#)
- [Student Guide to eLearning at York University](#)
- Important Dates: Please refer to: <https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/fw20> for a list of important dates.

(4) COURSE INFORMATION

Class Times: Fridays 2:30-5:30.

ZOOM Link: <https://yorku.zoom.us/j/93478327806>. Meeting ID: 934 7832 7806

Prerequisites: AP/ADMS 1000 3.00 and AP/ADMS/DEMS 2700 3.00.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

Explores ethical uncertainties associated with disasters and emergencies and develops a basic understanding of ethical decision-making processes and moral reasoning. Also explores the moral imperatives associated with emergency management in a variety of contexts, locally and globally. Emphasis is on applied ethics, development of moral competence in response to issues, and implications for socially responsive environmental and disaster management.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

Though the course is being delivered remotely, I will try to replicate the classroom experience as closely as possible. The course will consist of lectures, round table discussion, exercises, critiques by students on papers selected in consultation with the course instructor, and the examination of case studies. It is crucial that students attend all classes, and marks may be deducted for missed classes.

TEXTBOOK:

“The Ethical Emergency Manager: Issues, Morality and Dilemmas”, available in e-format and hardcopy from Amazon, and electronically in the York library system. There will be supplemental readings and/or videos posted on the course website throughout the semester.

COURSE TOPICS:

Lecture Topics (subject to change at the instructor's discretion):

- Lectures #1 & 2
 - Introduction
 - Metaethics, Normative Ethics, Descriptive Ethics
 - Ethical Theories
 - Utilitarianism
 - Duty-Based Ethics
 - Social Contract Theory and Justice
 - Virtue Ethics and Egoism
 - Divine Command and Natural Law
 - Environmental Ethics
 - Corporate Social Responsibility
- Lecture #3: Ethical Dilemmas
- Lecture #5: Moral Development, Moral Leadership and Moral Traps
- Lecture #6: Ethical Risk Assessment
- Lecture #7: The Precautionary Principle
- Lecture #8: Victim Blaming and Duty to Respond
- Lecture #9: Land Use Planning
- Lecture #10: Humanitarianism
- Lecture #11: Lifeboat Ethics and The Value of Life
- Lecture #12: Moral Leadership

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1. Short Answer	10%
2. Debates	20%
3. Term Paper	30%
<u>4. Learning Journal</u>	<u>40%</u>
Total	100%

1. The short answer assignment will be given out the second class and due one week later. The purpose of it is to develop analytical thinking. You will be given a situation to analyze and asked to look at the various ethical pros and cons. The length of your analysis should be about 800 words.

2. Each week, starting at week #2, four students (two teams of two) will engage in a debate on an ethical issue. Each team will have 5-10 minutes to make their case, followed by a 2-minute rebuttal. The debate will be followed by a class discussion on the topic. You will not be graded on the quality of your speaking or presentation, but only on the content and logic of your arguments. You are required to use a PowerPoint as part of

your presentation. Following the debate, you must submit your PowerPoint and a summary of your argument (about 500 words).

3. A 8-page term paper on an ethical issue will be due on week #10. Students will be provided with a list of potential topics. Any student who wishes to write on a topic not provided may do so if the topic is approved in advance by the course director.

4. One week after the final class students will submit a learning journal of about 12 pages (about 1 page per class). This journal should include a summary of the important take-aways from each class, as well as your thoughts and reactions to the material covered. It must be in your own words – no quotations are allowed.

- All documents submitted to the course director shall be in Word format (doc or docx), double spaced, 12-point font.
- Please name all files using the following protocol: “3707_FirstName_LastName_Subject”. For example, if submitting a term paper proposal, the file name would be 3707_Jane_Doe_TermPaperProposal”
- When sending an email to the course director, please use the following format in the subject line: 3707_FirstName_LastName_Subject

Grade	Grade Point	Per Cent Range	Description
A+	9	90-100	Exceptional
A	8	80-89	Excellent
B+	7	75-79	Very Good
B	6	70-74	Good
C+	5	65-69	Competent
C	4	60-64	Fairly Competent
D+	3	55-59	Passing
D	2	50-54	Marginally Passing
E	1	(marginally below 50%)	Marginally Failing
F	0	(below 50%)	Failing

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION:

Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment. Assignments are to be handed in via Moodle.

LATENESS PENALTY:

Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized 4% per day that the assignment is late. Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, emergency etc., will be considered by the Course Instructor but may require supporting documentation (e.g., a doctor's letter).

MISSED TESTS:

Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, emergency, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (e.g., doctor's letter) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

(5) RELEVANT UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

Deferred standing may be granted to students who are unable to write their final examination at the scheduled time or to submit their outstanding course work on the last day of classes. In order to apply for deferred standing, students must complete a Deferred Standing Agreement (DSA) form and submit their request no later than five (5) business days from the date of the exam. The request must be properly submitted with supporting documentation directly to the main office of the School of Administrative Studies (282 Atkinson), NOT to the Course Director. These requests will be considered on their merit and decisions will be made available to the students by the main office in the School's web site (under the heading of 'Links'), no individualized communication will be sent by the School to the students (no letter or e-mails). The status of the DSA submitted shall be checked at: <http://apps.eso.yorku.ca/apps/adms/deferredexams.nsf>

Students with approved DSA will be able to write their deferred examination during the School's deferred examination period. No further extensions of deferred exams shall be granted. The format and covered content of the deferred examination may be different from that of the originally scheduled examination. The deferred exam may be closed book, cumulative and comprehensive and may include all subjects/topics of the textbook whether they have been covered in class or not. Any request for deferred standing on medical grounds must include an Attending Physician's Statement form; a "Doctor's Note" will not be accepted.

Deferred Standing Agreement Form:

http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/deferred_standing_agreement.pdf

Attending Physician's Statement form:

<http://www.yorku.ca/laps/council/students/documents/APS.pdf>

ACADEMIC HONESTY: ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

In this course, we strive to maintain academic integrity to the highest extent possible. Please familiarize yourself with the meaning of academic integrity by completing SPARK's Academic Integrity module at the beginning of the course (<https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/>). Breaches of academic integrity range from cheating to plagiarism (i.e., the improper crediting of another's work, the representation of another's ideas as your own, etc.). All instances of academic dishonesty in this course will be reported to the appropriate university authorities, and can be punishable according to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty.

LA&PS COURSE POLICIES.

That document summarizes and provides links to the information typically provided under the Course Information section, including on Student Rights & Responsibilities (<https://oscr.students.yorku.ca/student-conduct>), and Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities (<https://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities-policy/>). For more language on course information, please consult the University's Important Course Information document.

REAPPRAISALS:

Students may, with sufficient academic grounds, request that a final grade in a course be reappraised (which may mean the review of specific pieces of tangible work). Non-academic grounds are not relevant for grade reappraisals; in such cases, students are advised to petition to their home Faculty. Students are normally expected to first contact the course director to discuss the grade received and to request that their tangible work be reviewed. Tangible work may include written, graphic, digitized, modeled, video recording or audio recording formats, but not oral work. Students need to be aware that a request for a grade reappraisal may result in the original grade being raised, lowered or confirmed. For reappraisal procedures and information, please visit the Office of the Registrar site at: <http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/grades/reappraisal/index.htm>

ACCOMMODATION PROCEDURES:

LA&PS students who have experienced a misfortune or who are too ill to attend a final examination should not attempt to do so; they must pursue deferred standing. Other students should contact their home Faculty for information. For further information, please visit: <http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/exams/deferred/index.htm>

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION:

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents. For more information on religious accommodation, please visit:

<https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm.woa/wa/regobs>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses. Provided that students have given sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established hereunder. For more information please visit the Disabilities Services website at <http://www.yorku.ca/cds/>

York's disabilities offices and the Registrar's Office work in partnership to support alternate exam and test accommodation services for students with disabilities at the Keele campus. For more information on alternate exams and tests please visit <http://www.yorku.ca/altexams/>. Please alert the Course Director as soon as possible should you require special accommodations.

(6) MDEM POLICY FOR MISSED CLASSES

COURSE DIRECTOR:

- The impact of non-attendance on grades will be outlined at the beginning of the course and in the course outline.
- Students who miss classes because of a disability and who are registered with the Disability Office must be given reasonable accommodation, which is to be negotiated at the beginning of the course between the student, the Disability Office and the course director. This accommodation must comply with university policy.
- It is the responsibility of each instructor to decide what weight (if any) shall be placed on missed classes in the computation of final course grades. The instructor must inform students in writing during the first week of the course (e.g., in the course syllabus) of his/her policies on missed classes and related issues, including unexcused absences, make-up examinations, and makeup of work missed during students' excused absences.
- It is the responsibility of each instructor to identify in his/her syllabus the methods (written, e-mail, and/or voice mail) by which any unexpected student absences should be communicated. Each instructor should provide students with at least two of the aforementioned methods as options to communicate any absences.

- Instructors are not to penalize students with excused absences.

STUDENT:

- Full attendance is expected in all courses.
 - o At the beginning of each course, students must be advised of their attendance requirements, and these requirements will also be stated in the course outline.
- Only in specific, unavoidable situations are absences excused from class:
 - o personal emergencies, including, but not limited to, illness of the student or of a dependent of the student, or death in the family;
 - o religious observances that prevent the student from attending class;
 - o participation in University-sponsored activities, approved by the appropriate University authority, such as intercollegiate athletic competitions, activities approved by academic units, academic field trips, and special events connected with coursework;
 - o government-required activities, such as military assignments, jury duty, or court appearances; and
 - o any other absence that the professor approves.
- Students are responsible for all material covered in classes they miss, even when their absences are excused.
- If possible, students should notify their course professor or instructor, in advance, if they are going to be absent for any reason and discuss the possibility of alternate arrangements for the completion and grading of any missed assignments, tests, or other evaluative tools as stipulated in the course outline.
- Students must make arrangements with instructors to complete missed assignments, labs, examinations or other course requirements.
- A student who is absent from three (3) or more classes without providing written justification to the course instructor and doing independent work to make up for the missed classes will receive a failing grade in that course.
- Students missing more than three (3) classes, regardless of whether their absences are avoidable or unavoidable, will be considered unable to meet the “learning outcomes” of the course, unless in the judgement of the course director the student has done sufficient makeup work to compensate for these absences.
- A student may make up missed work only at the discretion of the course professor or instructor. Missed assignments, tests, or other evaluative tools could result in the forfeiture of grades as described in the course outline.

- It is expected that students will arrange their work schedules with their employers in such a way as to enable them to attend all classes as scheduled. If, however, a student must miss a class because of workplace demands, the student will be entitled to submit alternative work to demonstrate their mastery of the missed course material, and to have that alternative work treated as this policy requires.