

CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY
University Honors Program
One University Drive
Orange, CA 92866

Course Title:
How Art Can Help Us Save the Planet

Instructor: Ivan MAGRIN-CHAGNOLLEAU, presidential fellow

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Time: Tuesdays, Thursdays 2:30 pm - 3:45 pm

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: Formal acceptance in the University Honors Program.

Course Description:

This course could also have been entitled “**How Art Can Help Us Make the World a Better Place**”. It will explore **the connection between Art and Ethics**. Ethics refers to the question of right and wrong behavior.

This course is targeted at students interested in **Art** (including Performing Arts and Film) and/or **Philosophy** and/or **Ethics** and/or **Making the world a better place** and/or **Saving the planet**.

This course will explore **the ethical dimension of art** through the **analysis of artwork**.

Students will also create artwork illustrating some of the ethical dimensions explored during the course.

Important ethical questions, relating to some of the following topics, will be explored during the course:

- **Climate (main focus)**
- **Diversity**
- **Kindness**
- **Emotions**
- **Mutual respect**
- **Artificial Intelligence**
- **Education**
- ...

Course Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, students will be able to **express their views about an artwork in terms of ethics**. They will **understand what Ethics is** and **how art can contribute to a better understanding of ethics**. They will also be able to produce some articulated thoughts as well as some artwork **contributing to the debate about ethics**.

General Education Learning Outcomes:

Artistic Inquiry (AI): Courses in this General Education category provide students an opportunity to explore artistic media, performance and/or creative expression. Students compose critical or creative works that embody or analyze conceptually an artistic form at a baccalaureate/pre-professional level.

For this course, students will have several opportunities to explore artistic media, performance and creative expression through the study of artworks (film, TV shows, photographs, paintings, sculptures, visual arts, installations, performances, etc.) and through the organization of an art show at the Guggenheim Gallery, in relation to the topics discussed in class. Some readings will also be directly connected to AI, namely Gaut (2009) as well as Gaut and Lopes (2022).

Values and Ethics Inquiry (VI): Courses in this General Education category provide students an opportunity to explore values and ethical perspectives in humanistic, aesthetic, religious, and/or philosophical contexts. Students articulate how values and ethics inform human understanding, structures, and behavior.

For this course, students will have several opportunities to explore values and ethical perspectives in humanistic, aesthetic, religious, and philosophical contexts: some readings in

the course deal with values and ethics: Varela (1999), Boone (2017), Dell'Olio and Simon (2010), Gaut (2009), and even Gaut and Lopes (2002) to some degree. The focus on art will also investigate more particularly on the relationship between ethics and aesthetics. Finally, students will have several oral and written assignments as well as in class activities dealing directly with values and ethics.

Instructional Strategies:

This course will be mostly based on **discussions held in class**. Artwork and some texts will be assigned for viewing and reading between classes, and then will be discussed in class. Students will take turn in **presenting some of the material in front of their peers**.

A part of the course will also be dedicated to the **conception and realization of some artwork** in connection with the topics of the course.

Prerequisites:

None. Just the **willingness to do the work** and **curiosity** about art, ethics, their relationship, and their vocabulary.

Textbooks:

The teacher will provide several documents drawn from original and secondary sources and require students to work on them and discuss them in class. The following texts will provide necessary background for many of the classroom discussions:

Varela, F. J. (1999). *Ethical Know-How: Action, Wisdom, and Cognition* (1st edition). Stanford: Stanford University Press, 96 p.

Boone, B. (2017). *Ethics 101: From Altruism and Utilitarianism to Bioethics and Political Ethics, an Exploration of the Concepts of Right and Wrong*. New York: Adams Media, 256 p.

Dell'Olio, A. J., & Simon, C. J. (Eds.). (2010). *Introduction to Ethics: A Reader*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 478 p.

Gaut, B. (2009). *Art, Emotion and Ethics* (Illustrated edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 288 p.

Gaut, B., & Lopes, D. (Eds.). (2002). *The Routledge Companion to Aesthetics*. London: Routledge, 600 p.

Syllabus:

WEEK 1

TUESDAY

- Name games
- Introducing each other
- Presentation of the course
- Questionnaire

THURSDAY

- Name games
- Discussion on Ethics
- Brainstorm activities for the class

WEEK 2

TUESDAY

- ETHICS 101 - Chapter 1 - ETHICS AND THE ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHERS
- Work on Project #1

THURSDAY

- ETHICS 101 - Chapter 2 - THE DIVERGENT GREEK SCHOOLS
- Work on Project #1

WEEK 3

TUESDAY

- INTRO TO ETHICS - Chapter 2 - RELIGION AND MORALITY - p6-22
- Work on Project #1

THURSDAY

- INTRO TO ETHICS - Chapter 3 - MORAL RELATIVISM - p64-66 + p106-122
- Work on Project #1

WEEK 4

TUESDAY

- Artists+Artworks Presentations #1

THURSDAY

- Artists+Artworks Presentations #1

WEEK 5

TUESDAY

- INTRO TO ETHICS - Chapter 4 - NATURAL LAW THEORY - p125-128 + p148-157
- Work on Project #1

THURSDAY

- INTRO TO ETHICS - Chapter 6 - ETHICS OF DUTY - p208-210 + p224-233
- Work on Project #1

WEEK 6

TUESDAY

- ETHICS 101 - Chapter 6 - EASTERN MORAL PHILOSOPHIES
- Work on Project #1

THURSDAY

- Visit #1
- Mid-terms posted

WEEK 7

TUESDAY

- Project #1 - Presentations

THURSDAY

- Project #1 - Presentations
- Mid-terms due

WEEK 8

TUESDAY

- ETHICS 101 - Chapter 9 - CLASSIC ETHICS EXERCISES
- Work on Project #2

THURSDAY

- ETHICS 101 - Chapter 10 - APPLIED ETHICS
- Work on Project #2
- Peer reviews of mid-terms due

WEEK 9

TUESDAY

- Visit #2

THURSDAY

- INTRO TO ETHICS - Chapter 7 - VIRTUE ETHICS - p255-258 + p285-291
- Work on Project #2

WEEK 10

TUESDAY

- Artists+Artworks Presentations #2

THURSDAY

- Artists+Artworks Presentations #2

WEEK 11

TUESDAY

- INTRO TO ETHICS - Chapter 9 - LIVING A GOOD LIFE - p403-406 + p445-461
- Work on Project #2

THURSDAY

- Visit #3

WEEK 12

TUESDAY

- VARELA - Lecture 1
- Work on Project #2

THURSDAY

- VARELA - Lecture 2
- Work on Project #2

WEEK 13

TUESDAY

- VARELA - Lecture 3
- Work on Project #2

THURSDAY

- Project #2 - Presentations
- Finals posted

WEEK 14

TUESDAY

- Project #2 - Presentations

WEDNESDAY

- ART SHOW + ONLINE SHOW

THURSDAY

- Debrief Art Show
- Finals due

WEEK 15

- Peer reviews of finals due

Grading:

Class participation 20% (including absences, lateness, non-graded assignments)

Mid-term 30% (presentation of artwork + essay)

Final exam 30% (presentation of artwork + essay)

Participation to the on-site art show 10%

Participation to the online art exhibition 10%

The Chapman University Academic Integrity Policy:

Chapman University is a community of scholars which emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated anywhere in the university.

Students with Disabilities Policy:

In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services. If you will need to utilize your approved accommodations in this class, please follow the proper notification procedure for informing your professor(s). This notification process must occur more than a week before any accommodation can be utilized. Please contact Disability Services at (714) 516-4520 or (<https://www.chapman.edu/students/health-and-safety/disability-services/>) if you have questions regarding this procedure, or for information and to make an appointment to discuss and/or request potential accommodations based on documentation of your disability. Once formal approval of your need for an accommodation has been granted, you are encouraged to talk with your professor(s) about your accommodation options. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

Equity and Diversity:

Chapman University is committed to fostering learning and working environments that encourage and embrace diversity, multiple perspectives, and the free exchange of ideas as important measures to advance educational and social benefits. Our commitment and affirmation are rooted in our traditions of peace and social justice and our mission of producing ethical and responsible global citizens. The term diversity implies a respect for all and an understanding of individual differences in age, class, disability, ethnicity, gender, language, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

Bio of Ivan MAGRIN-CHAGNOLLEAU:

Ivan MAGRIN-CHAGNOLLEAU is an artist and philosopher. He has been involved in artmaking for most of his life (film, theatre, photography, music, creative writing, etc.). He has also been involved in academic research and teaching (electrical and computer engineering, linguistics, philosophy). He is now particularly interested in the creative process and its phenomenology, the link between art and spirituality, criticism, aesthetics, the philosophy of art, and the importance of rehabilitating love as a life value. He has been doing research in France for the CNRS (the National Center for Scientific Research) and is now a presidential fellow at Chapman University.