

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 1:00 pm - 2:15 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**
- **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**.

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*. Newyork: 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.

Grading:

Class participation 20%

Essays written during the term 20%

Artwork made during the term 20%

Mid-term 20%

Final exam 20%

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 a philosopher. He has been involved in art making 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 to rehabilitate love as a life value. He has been doing research in France for the very prestigious C.N.R.S. (the National Center for Scientific Research) and at Chapman University.