



PHIL 2306 Introduction to Ethics

Course Syllabus: Spring 2019

Monday & Wednesday

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Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1-3pm	8-9am 1-3pm	1-3pm	8-9am 1-3pm	

The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course or online via Blackboard.

Course Description:

Ethics is a course designed to expose students to the history and the application of ethics and values, especially, but not exclusively as these relate to life in the contemporary world. The course is the study of right conduct and right thought experienced through the writing of classical and modern philosophers and through various ethical questions appearing in stories in the media. We will be systematically evaluating classical and contemporary ethical theories concerning the good life, human conduct in society, morals, and standards of value.

Required Textbook(s):

No textbook. Materials will be open sourced and publicly available. Students will need a reliable internet connection or regular attendance at the library in order to stay on top of required readings.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Ability to read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.
2. Define and appropriately use important terms such as relativism, virtue, duty, rights, utilitarianism, natural law, egoism, altruism, autonomy, and care ethics.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of major arguments and problems in ethics.
4. Present and discuss well-reasoned ethical positions in writing.
5. Apply ethical concepts and principles to address moral concerns.
6. Apply course material to various aspects of life.
7. Discuss ways of living responsibly in a world where people have diverse ethical beliefs.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will analyze and articulate the theoretical principles that guide philosophical life, applying historical principles to modern examples.
2. Students will critically evaluate the content, causes, and effects of philosophically significant events, questions, and decisions, articulating courses of action accurately, thoroughly, and in-depth without indication of personal belief (unless specifically requested).
3. Students will display an air of respect and understanding for philosophically and morally complex and sometimes sensitive issues.

4. By analyzing the opposition, students will develop their own philosophical voice, moving beyond simple claims to well-documented, supported arguments.

Lectures & Discussions:

Lectures and/or discussions will be based on chapters in academic texts and articles.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

Students will be tested on assigned readings from the text as well as additional materials assigned in class. Your **total grade** will be determined by 5 components:

Punctuality & Participation	20%
Quizzes	15%
Research Report	15%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

Tests/Exams:

Two exams will be given (midterm & final). The questions are primarily multiple choice, true/false and short essay. No notes are permitted on exams. Previous arrangements must be made when it is necessary to miss an exam. In the case of an emergency where prior notification is unavailable, students must provide proof of an excused absence in order to make up the test.

Student Responsibilities/Expectations:

Since the lecture-discussion method will be employed in this class, regular attendance is highly encouraged. Students must be present in order to get credit for some in-class assignments. Failure to attend on mandatory attendance days will result in a loss of available points for the activity. If the attendance policy is broken, the instructor will examine the reasons for the student's absences, the student's work in the class, and determine whether it is in the student's best interest to remain in the class. If the student breaks the attendance policy, the instructor may begin withdrawal procedures (up to the college's withdrawal deadline) or may fail the student for the course (after the college's withdrawal deadline has passed). Students are expected to **check weekly** the campus email account and the course Blackboard for any course changes, announcements, and assignments.

Other Course Requirements:

Since the class is intensely discussion based, students who miss more than **six class periods** will not receive a grade higher than C in this course. If the student misses **more than seven class periods**, then the teacher has the option to drop the student from the course. Additionally, be aware that inappropriate classroom behavior is judged to be a disturbance. The instructor has responsibility for control of the classroom and will take steps to ensure an orderly environment for learning exists unimpeded.

NTCC Academic Honesty Statement:

Students are expected to complete course work in an honest manner, using their intellects and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty policy stated in the Student Handbook.

Academic Ethics:

The college expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuit. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. Refer to the student handbook for more information on this subject.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with Katherine Belew, Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in the College Connection. She can be reached at 903-434-8218. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the NTCC website - Special Populations.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

Recommended Reading(s):

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy <http://plato.stanford.edu/>

The Prosblogion <http://prosblogion.ektopos.com/>

Talking Philosophy <http://blog.talkingphilosophy.com/>

Philosophy Talk <http://www.philosophytalk.org/>

Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews <https://ndpr.nd.edu/recent-reviews/>

Ask Philosophers <http://www.askphilosophers.org/>

Philosophy Etc. <http://www.philosophyetc.net/>

Course Outline:

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Seminar Topic
1	23- Jan	Introduction to Ethics	Free Speech on Campus
2	28- Jan	Cultural Relativism	Corporal Punishment
3	4- Feb	Subjectivism	Environmental Responsibility
4	11- Feb	Religious Moralities	Economic Inequality
5	18- Feb	Rational Choice	Educational Reform
6	25- Feb	Structuralism	Homelessness
7	4- Mar	Medical Ethics	Disaster Relief
8	11- Mar	Spring Break	
9	18- Mar	Midterms Week	
10	25-Mar	Social Contract Theory	Affirmative Action
11	1- Apr	Moral Absolutes	Justice & Prison System
12	8- Apr	Ethics of Care	Vegetarianism
13	15- Apr	Worldview Construction	Social Democracy
14	22- Apr	Research Presentations	
15	29- Apr	Research Presentations	
16	6- May	Research Presentations	
17	13- May	Finals Week	