



PHIL 2306—Introduction to Ethics

Course Syllabus: Fall 2019

“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide responsible, exemplary learning opportunities.”

Professor Matthew Lampert

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Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online
	1:00 – 3:00	11:00 – 2:00	1:00 – 3:00	11:00 – 2:00	by appointment	N/A

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.

Course Description: The systematic evaluation of classical and/or contemporary ethical theories concerning the good life, human conduct in society, morals, and standards of value.

Required Textbook(s):

All readings are available on Blackboard in .pdf format.

Recommended Reading(s):

As necessary, supplementary readings will be loaded onto Blackboard in .pdf format.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. 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:

Students will read, analyze, and discuss major works of Western philosophy while gaining an understanding of ethics within a historical context.

Lectures & Discussions:

August	26	First Day of Class: Syllabus; Introductions; Outline of the course.
	28	Opening Discussion: What Is Ethics?
September	2	Labor Day: No Class
	4	Reading: Erich Fromm, "Humanistic Ethics" Quiz #1
	9	Fromm, continued
	11	Reading: Korsgaard: <i>The Sources of Normativity</i> , lecture I Quiz #2
	16	Korsgaard, continued
	18	Reading: Aristotle: <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> (pp. pp. 1-8) Quiz #3
	23	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , continued
	25	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , continued
	30	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , continued (pp. 9-20) Quiz #4
October	2	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , continued
	7	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , continued (pp. 22-32)
	9	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , continued (pp. 33-58) Quiz #5
	14	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , continued
	16	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , wrap-up
	21	Reading: Kant: <i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , Preface (pp. 1-3) Quiz #6
	23	<i>Groundwork</i> , Preface, continued First Essay Due!
	28	<i>Groundwork</i> , Section I (pp. 4-9) Quiz #7
	30	<i>Groundwork</i> , Section I, continued
November	4	<i>Groundwork</i> , Section II (pp. 10-21) Quiz #8
	6	<i>Groundwork</i> , Section II, continued
	11	<i>Groundwork</i> , Section II (pp. 21-28) Quiz #9
	13	<i>Groundwork</i> , Section II, continued
	18	Reading: Korsgaard: <i>The Sources of Normativity</i> , lecture III (pp. 1-10) Quiz #10
	20	Korsgaard, continued
	25	<i>Sources of Normativity</i> , lecture III (pp. 10-20) Quiz #11
	27	Thanksgiving Break: No Class
December	2	Korsgaard, continued
	4	Catch-Up / Final Review Journals Due!
	9	Final Exams Week: Last chance to hand in late journals
	11	Final Essay Due

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

1. An **online course journal**. For each reading, I will give you a few response question(s); a few paragraphs should be sufficient in each case, but journals will be graded on relevance, completeness, and use of course material (your journal responses should show that you have read, and are applying, the assigned reading). Journals will be kept online throughout the semester, and **they will be graded at the end**. Journals will be due at the end of the semester, and should be submitted by the final day of class. Late entries will lose a portion of the credit, and all unanswered questions will receive no credit. **30%**
2. Weekly **in-class quizzes** (see schedule for specific dates); at the end of the semester, your lowest quiz score will be dropped; the rest will be averaged for your quiz grade. **You must be present to take the quiz, which will be given at the very beginning of class**—quizzes will not be sent home, nor given as make-ups. A missed quiz is a zero. **30%**
3. A series of **two essays**, assigned during the semester. The essay assignments will be your opportunity to apply what you've learned and do some critical thinking. **20%**
4. **Class participation** is very important. This includes not only attendance (see below), but also active involvement in class discussion. I expect that each student will come in with some thoughts to share on each topic of discussion. **20%**

Numerical grading scale breakdown: At the end of this semester, I will assign you a letter grade based upon the percentage of the total points available for the semester that you have earned. My grading scale is as follows. **A:** 100%-90; **B:** 89.9-80; **C:** 79.9-70; **D:** 69.9-60; **F:** 59 or below.

Tests/Exams:

In-class quizzes will be given at the start of class on the following days:

Quiz 1	September 4
Quiz 2	September 11
Quiz 3	September 18
Quiz 4	September 30
Quiz 5	October 9
Quiz 6	October 21
Quiz 7	October 28
Quiz 8	November 4
Quiz 9	November 11
Quiz 10	November 18
Quiz 11	November 25

Each quiz will be worth 5 points; the lowest quiz score will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Assignments:

Two essays will be due over the course of the semester, on the following dates:

Essay 1	October 23
Essay 2	December 9

Each essay will be turned in through Blackboard and TurnItIn.

Student Responsibilities/Expectations:

1. Attendance means being present for the *entire class*. Either show up on time and stay for the entire session, or don't show up at all; arriving late, or coming in and out during class, is disruptive and will not be tolerated. In case we're unclear: a minute late is still *late*.
2. **Academic honesty is taken very seriously.** In a philosophy class, this means that sources used in papers or journals should be cited somehow (MLA style, Chicago style, etc.), and quotations from any text **clearly indicated**. It also, more importantly, means not taking credit for the work of another. Plagiarism, handing in papers downloaded off of the internet, or any other case of a student handing in something he or she has not written will be **grounds for immediate failure of the class**, no exceptions. If you have *any* questions at all, *please* consult the college's policy, and/or see me directly: "I didn't know this wasn't okay" is *not* an excuse.
3. All handed in work **must be typed**, and I ask that you go through the step of spell-checking them first as well. If you do not have a computer or printer, you should plan on using the available computer labs at school.
4. **Your journal must be submitted through Blackboard** by the due date to be considered on time. **Do not email your journal to me.** I will **not** accept your journal via email. **If your journal is not submitted on (or by) the date it's due**, you will have only one week to submit a late journal. **All journal entries handed in late will be penalized 25%.**
5. Turn all cell phones off before entering the classroom, out of respect to fellow students and the discussion. Any student interrupting class with a cell phone or other noisy electronic device may be asked to leave the class for the day.

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.