



PHIL 125 - Introduction to Ethics Course Outline

Approval Date: 01/12/2017

Effective Date: 06/10/2017

SECTION A

Unique ID Number CCC000197252

Discipline(s) Philosophy

Division Arts and Humanities

Subject Area Philosophy

Subject Code PHIL

Course Number 125

Course Title Introduction to Ethics

TOP Code/SAM Code 1509.00 - Philosophy / E - Non-Occupational

Rationale for adding this course to the curriculum Update on textbook.

Units 3

Cross List N/A

Typical Course Weeks 18

Total Instructional Hours

Contact Hours

Lecture 54.00

Lab 0.00

Activity 0.00

Work Experience 0.00

Outside of Class Hours 108.00

Total Contact Hours 54

Total Student Hours 162

Open Entry/Open Exit No

Maximum Enrollment

Grading Option Letter Grade or P/NP

Distance Education Mode of Instruction

SECTION B

General Education Information:

SECTION C

Course Description

Repeatability May be repeated 0 times

Catalog Description A survey of major ethical theories in Western thought with reference to questions of right, good and duty, combined with application of these theories to situations in our personal lives.

Schedule Description

SECTION D

Condition on Enrollment

1a. **Prerequisite(s):** *None*

1b. **Corequisite(s):** *None*

1c. **Recommended**

- ENGL 120 or higher

1d. **Limitation on Enrollment:** *None*

SECTION E

Course Outline Information

1. Student Learning Outcomes:

- Examine and evaluate the major ethical systems of the Western world from Socrates to present-day philosophers.
- Critically analyze ethical systems applying analytic a priori propositions and synthetic a posteriori propositions to logical arguments.

2. **Course Objectives:** Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Define, identify and give examples of deductive and inductive reasoning, syllogisms, logical relatedness, analytic a priori and synthetic a posteriori propositions.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the development of ethical reasoning.
- List and identify the major philosophers and briefly state their respective positions.
- Develop his/her own judgments of ethical theories based on a critical-thinking approach.
- Create, identify and rationally critique ethical theories using critical-thinking skills presented in class.
- F.

3. Course Content

- Introduction to Critical Thinking: Deductive and inductive reasoning, syllogisms, logical relatedness, analytic a priori and synthetic a posteriori propositions.
- Developing critical-thinking skills and applying the above-mentioned logical tools to the various ethical arguments that follow for critical analysis.
- What is Morality? Key terms.
- Consequentialist (Teleological) Theories of Morality: Psychological Egoism, Ethical Egoism, Utilitarianism.
- Non-Consequentialist (Deontological) Theories of Morality and Virtue Ethics: Act versus Rule Non-Consequentialist Theories.
- PLATO (427-347 BCE) Knowledge and Virtue
- ARISTOTLE (384-322 BCE) Moral Character
- EPICURUS (342 or 341-270 BCE) The Pleasant Life
- EPICETETUS (c. 50-c.130 CE) Self-Discipline
- SAINT AUGUSTINE (354-430) The Love of God

- K. SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS (1225-1274) Morality and Natural Law
- L. THOMAS HOBBES (1588-1679) Social Contract Ethics
- M. BENEDICT DE SPINOZA (1632-1677) Nature and Reason
- N. JOSEPH BUTLER (1692-1752) Conscience in Morality
- O. DAVID HUME (1711-1776) Morality and Sentiment
- P. IMMANUEL KANT (1724-1804) Duty and Reason
- Q. JOHN STUART MILL (1806-1873) The Greatest Happiness Principle
- R. SOREN KIERKEGAARD (1813-1855) The Leap of Faith
- S. Brief overview of major trends in 20th and 21st-century moral thought.
- T.

4. Methods of Instruction:

Discussion: Socratic Method - combination of lecture and discussion in class.

Lecture:

Other: Lecture/discussion/films/podcasts: After lectures: image and video enhanced lecture, or podcasts covering core concepts followed by class and/or group discussion, depending on topic.

5. Methods of Evaluation: Describe the general types of evaluations for this course and provide at least two, specific examples.

Typical classroom assessment techniques

Exams/Tests -- Multiple choice and essay exams.

Home Work -- Read assignments in text.

Additional assessment information:

- 3 midterms (objective and essay)

SAMPLE OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS: 1.) Define "deontological". 2.) What is the etymological definition of "ethics"?

SAMPLE ESSAY QUESTIONS: 1.) Summarize THE EUTHYPHRO and describe its significance using current examples of those who seem to adhere to the Sophists' views and those that seem to adhere to Socrates' view. 2.) Describe how we can discern the existence of objective quality in an artwork such as a musical piece, a painting, a dance, a sculpture or drama and relate that to objective quality in a moral act.

- Final Exam (objective and essay)

SAMPLE OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS: 1.) Describe Kant's argument for the existence of Categorical Imperative. In your response, you need to define a Categorical Imperative. 2.) Why does MacIntyre believe that contemporary society needs to decide between only two moral traditions - Aristotelian or Nietzschean?

Letter Grade or P/NP

6. Assignments: State the general types of assignments for this course under the following categories and provide at least two specific examples for each section.

A. Reading Assignments

-Read Parts I, II, III and IV in textbook. Time devoted to each part will be approximately 3 - 4 weeks.

-Read original texts not found in textbook by the philosophers studied in class. Instructor will provide the primary sources not found in the text book.

B. Writing Assignments

- Write at least 2 papers, each one being no more than 15 typed pages, double-spaced.

C. Other Assignments

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7. Required Materials

A. EXAMPLES of typical college-level textbooks (for degree-applicable courses) or other print materials.

Book #1:

Author: Shafer-Landau, R.

Title: THE ETHICAL LIFE: Fundamental Readings in Ethics and Moral Problems

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Date of Publication: 2015

Edition:

B. Other required materials/supplies.

- Access to media outlets such as TV, radio, Internet, current periodicals found in library.