

PHIL 1103: Ethics

A. Course Description

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
Lab hours per week: 0
3. Prerequisites: None
4. Co-requisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: 6 and 9

This course is an introduction to the philosophical study of morality. It will examine several important and ethical theories concerning virtue and vice, the nature of right action, standards of value, and conceptions of the good life. Contemporary moral issues will be critically examined in light of these theories; topics may include marriage equality, animal rights, torture, euthanasia, freedom of speech, punishment and the death penalty, globalization and justice, and other issues. The course may also include topics in metaethics, such as ethical relativism. This course will help students to think analytically about the moral judgments we are tempted to make, with the goal of developing well-reasoned positions on important moral issues of personal and/or social concern.

B. Date last revised: Fall 2015

C. Outline of Major Content Areas

1. Ethical Theory (may include utilitarianism, deontologicalism, virtue ethics, ethics of care, and other theories/approaches to morality)
2. Application of moral theory to issues of contemporary concern
3. Metaethics (may include moral relativism and cross cultural moral understanding, issues in moral epistemology, moral nihilism and amoralism)

D. Course Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:

1. Articulate and critically evaluate one's own moral views on a variety of moral issues. (9a, 2a)
2. Understand and apply core concepts in moral philosophy to specific issues. (9b, 2c)
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues. (9c, 2d)
4. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in light of the understanding developed of various ethical theories. (9e, 2b)
5. Use diverse ethical theories and positions to imaginatively understand and generate alternative moral reasoning of others. (9d, 2b)

6. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the history of moral philosophy and thought. (6a)
7. Understand ethical works as representations of various historical and social values. (6b)
8. Articulate informed personal responses to classical and modern philosophical works. (6e)
9. Critically analyze and evaluate moral arguments. (6c)

E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning

1. Essays and papers
2. Exams and Quizzes
3. Service Learning
4. Homework Assignments
5. Discussion Projects
6. In-class assignments and participation

7. **Special Information:** None