

PHIL-125: INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS

Effective Term

Fall 2025

CC Approval

02/07/2025

AS Approval

02/13/2025

BOT Approval

02/20/2025

COCI Approval

04/30/2025

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Philosophy (Master's Degree)	

Subject Code

PHIL - Philosophy

Course Number

125

Department

Philosophy (PHIL)

Division

Arts and Humanities (ARAH)

Full Course Title

Introduction to Ethics

Short Title

Introduction to Ethics

CB03 TOP Code

1509.00 - Philosophy

CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code

E - Non-Occupational

Rationale

Updating common course numbering course change.

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course 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.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment**Open Entry/Open Exit**

No

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Grading Options

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit

Yes

Requisites**Advisory Prerequisite(s)**

Completion of ENGL-C1000 or ENGL-120B with a minimum grade of C or appropriate placement.

SECTION D - Course Standards**Is this course variable unit?**

No

Units

3.00

Lecture Hours

54.00

Outside of Class Hours

108

Total Contact Hours

54

Total Student Hours

162

Distance Education Approval**Is this course offered through Distance Education?**

Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Entirely Online	Permanent
Hybrid	Permanent

SECTION E - Course Content**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

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

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Define, identify and give examples of deductive and inductive reasoning, syllogisms, logical relatedness, analytic a priori and synthetic a posteriori propositions.
2.	Demonstrate an understanding of the development of ethical reasoning.
3.	List and identify the major philosophers and briefly state their respective positions.
4.	Develop his/her own judgments of ethical theories based on a critical-thinking approach.
5.	Create, identify and rationally critique ethical theories using critical-thinking skills presented in class.

Course Content

1. Introduction to Critical Thinking: Deductive and inductive reasoning, syllogisms, logical relatedness, analytic a priori and synthetic a posteriori propositions.
2. Developing critical-thinking skills and applying the above-mentioned logical tools to the various ethical arguments that follow for critical analysis.
3. What is Morality? Key terms.
4. Consequentialist (Teleological) Theories of Morality: Psychological Egoism, Ethical Egoism, Utilitarianism.
5. Non-Consequentialist (Deontological) Theories of Morality and Virtue Ethics: Act versus Rule Non-Consequentialist Theories.
6. PLATO (427-347 BCE) Knowledge and Virtue
7. ARISTOTLE (384-322 BCE) Moral Character
8. EPICURUS (342 or 341-270 BCE) The Pleasant Life
9. EPICTETUS (c. 50-c.130 CE) Self-Discipline
10. SAINT AUGUSTINE (354-430) The Love of God
11. SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS (1225-1274) Morality and Natural Law
12. THOMAS HOBBS (1588-1679) Social Contract Ethics
13. BENEDICT DE SPINOZA (1632-1677) Nature and Reason
14. JOSEPH BUTLER (1692-1752) Conscience in Morality
15. DAVID HUME (1711-1776) Morality and Sentiment
16. IMMANUEL KANT (1724-1804) Duty and Reason
17. JOHN STUART MILL (1806-1873) The Greatest Happiness Principle
18. SOREN KIERKEGAARD (1813-1855) The Leap of Faith
19. Brief overview of major trends in 20th and 21st-century moral thought.

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
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.

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards
 Chat Rooms
 Discussion Boards
 E-mail Communication
 Telephone Conversations
 Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Chat Rooms
 Discussions
 Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Exams/Tests	Multiple choice and essay exams.
Homework	Read assignments in text.
Other	<p>3 midterms (objective and essay)</p> <p>SAMPLE OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS:</p> <p>1.) Define "deontological."</p> <p>2.) What is the etymological definition of "ethics"?</p> <p>SAMPLE ESSAY QUESTIONS:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Final Exam (objective and essay)</p> <p>SAMPLE OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS:</p> <p>1.) Describe Kant's argument for the existence of Categorical Imperative. In your response, you need to define a Categorical Imperative.</p> <p>2.) Why does Macintyre believe that contemporary society needs to decide between only two moral traditions - Aristotelian or Nietzschean?</p>

Assignments

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.

Writing Assignments

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

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Shafer-Landau, R.

Title

THE ETHICAL LIFE: Fundamental Readings in Ethics and Moral Problems

Publisher

Oxford University Press

Year

2015

Material Type

Other required materials/supplies

Description

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

Course Codes (Admin Only)**ASSIST Update**

No

CB00 State ID

CCC000197252

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

No