

## **Contemporary Ethical Problems Syllabus**

**PHI 1630, Summer 2019, June 24 - July 26**

### **Course & Faculty Information**

**Lecturer:** TBA

**E-mail:** TBA

**Time:** Monday through Friday

**Teaching hour:** 45 (1.8 contact hours each day)

**Office hours:** 2 hours (According to the teaching schedule)

**Credit:** 3

### **Course Description**

Discussions of the moral problems of contemporary society such as abortion, the sexual revolution, war, violence, aging, civil disobedience, modern medical practices and other issues take place in this course.

### **Textbook Information**

*Ethics for Modern Life*

Type: Book

Author: Abelson & Friquegnon

Edition: 6th

Copyright: 2003

Publisher: Bedford Saint Martin's

ISBN: 9780312157616

Status: Required

This course relies heavily on reading and writing; the textbook is absolutely required.

### **Measurable Course Objectives**

Measurable Course Objectives are outcomes students are expected to achieve by the end of the course.

- Discuss ethical concepts and values underlying western civilization.
- Show how ethical concepts are manifested in present society.
- Cite and interpret the masterworks from the tradition of ethics ancient Greek to the present.

- Compile papers using appropriate composition skills.
- Apply traditional moral principles to particular case studies.

## **Collegewide Student Learning Outcomes**

The Collegewide Student Learning Outcomes assessed and reinforced in this course include the following:

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Global Sociocultural Responsibility

## **Grade Scale and Evaluation Methods**

This is a discussion-based course designed to help improve your reading skills and to introduce you to philosophical thinking. Evaluation will assess progress in your analytical abilities. Emphasis too will be placed on how well those skills improve over the course of the semester.

Please note that attendance is mandatory. I will take roll every class. Students are allowed three absences. After that, there will be a five point deduction for each absence.

Each student's final grade will be based upon the following:

- Class Discussion Participation - 20% Participate in class discussions.
- Quizzes over the readings - 20%

During the course there will be six quizzes over the readings. You will be given possible quiz questions for each day's readings in advance (typically the day before), but the quizzes themselves will not be announced in advance. Your lowest grade will be dropped. Missing class on a quiz day results in a zero for that quiz.

- Two Brief (2-3 page) papers - 20%

These will be short papers to expand upon previous discussions and readings, including more support from the text. Do not use outside sources without my permission.

- Midterm Exam - 20% Identification terms and one or two essay questions
- Final Exam - 20% Identification terms and one or two essay questions

## **Grading Scale:**

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = Below 60%

## **Schedule/Calendar**

The following reading assignments are to be completed before the class meeting for the day so as to be prepared to discuss the concepts therein during class time.

### **Week 1 – Theories of Right and Wrong**

- Introduction to the course: Plato's Allegory of the Cave • Rationality, Kant, pg. 29.
- Social Benefit, Mill, pg. 42.
- Virtues and Vices, Foot, pg. 71.
- Scanlon, Contractualism, pg. 60.

### **Week 2 – Determining Responsibility / Midterm Exam**

- Feminist Ethics, Baier, pg. 95.
- Hard Determinism, Strawson, pg. 115.
- Soft Determinism, Blackburn, pg. 145.
- Midterm Exam
- Physician Assisted Suicide & Euthanasia Part 1
  - The Moral Justifiability of Assisted Suicide, Brock, pg. 191.
  - The Immorality of Assisted Suicide, Callahan, pg. 201.

### **Week 3 – Mortality Morality**

- Physician Assisted Suicide & Euthanasia Part 2 A Right to Choose Death?, Kamm, pg. 216.
  - Physician-Assisted Suicide, Bok, pg. 227.
- Abortion Part 1
  - The Right to Abortion, Warren, pg. 247.
- Abortion Part 2
  - The Wrongs of Abortion, Devine, pg. 239.

The Moral Dilemma of Abortion, Wilkes, pg. 262.

- Capital Punishment Part 1

The Wisdom of Capital Punishment, Pojman, pg. 272.

The Folly of Capital Punishment, Reiman, Pg. 282.

- Capital Punishment Part 2

Callins vs Collins – Dissenting, Blackmun, pg. 292.

Callins vs Collins – Concurring, Scalia, pg. 300.

#### **Week 4 – Social Morality**

The four social morality topics of discussion will be chosen by class preference from the topics available in the class text: Famine Relief, Environmental Ethics, Privacy and Its Limits, Affirmative Action, Animal Rights, Genetic Engineering and War & Terrorism.

- Topic 1 Part 1 - TBD
- Topic 1 Part 2 - TBD
- Topic 2 Part 1 - TBD
- Topic 2 Part 2 - TBD
- Topic 3 Part 1 - TBD

#### **Week 5 – Social Morality / Final Exam**

- Topic 3 Part 2 - TBD
- Topic 4 Part 1 - TBD
- Topic 4 Part 2- TBD
- Review
- Final Exam

### **Attendance Policy**

Seminole State College recognizes the correlation between attendance and both student retention and achievement. Students must be enrolled before they can attend class. Students are expected to attend all class sessions and activities for which they are registered. Any class session or activity missed, regardless of cause, reduces the opportunity of learning and may adversely affect a student's achievement in the course. Students are held responsible for material covered during their absences. Please recall that, as specified above, students are only permitted three absences. After that, they will lose five points per absence.

View complete policy from the college catalog at:

[http://www.seminolestate.edu/catalog/studentinfo/academic\\_policies/attendance.htm](http://www.seminolestate.edu/catalog/studentinfo/academic_policies/attendance.htm)

## Academic Integrity

As members of the Seminole State College of Florida community, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic coursework and activities. Academic dishonesty, such as cheating of any kind on examinations, course assignments or projects, plagiarism, misrepresentation and the unauthorized possession of examinations or other course-related materials, is prohibited.

Plagiarism is unacceptable to the college community. Academic work that is submitted by students is assumed to be the result of their own thought, research or self-expression. When students borrow ideas, wording or organization from another source, they are expected to acknowledge that fact in an appropriate manner. Plagiarism is the deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without identifying the source and trying to pass-off such work as the student's own. Any student who fails to give full credit for ideas or materials taken from another has plagiarized.

Students who share their work for the purpose of cheating on class assignments or tests are subject to the same penalties as the student who commits the act of cheating.

When cheating or plagiarism has occurred, instructors may take academic action that ranges from denial of credit for the assignment or a grade of "F" on a specific assignment, examination or project, to the assignment of a grade of "F" for the course. Students may also be subject to further sanctions imposed by the judicial officer, such as disciplinary probation, suspension or dismissal from the College. Students may also be subject to further sanctions imposed by a judicial officer, such as disciplinary probation, suspension or dismissal from the College.

This course strictly adheres to all policies concerning academic integrity as set forth in the current Seminole State College of Florida Catalogue. Any student who violates these policies is subject to receiving a failing grade for the course. This includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a testing situation, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive. Any student determined by the professor to have been guilty of engaging in an act of academic dishonesty shall be subject to a range of academic penalties as determined by the professor. These penalties may include, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

- loss of credit for an assignment, examination, or project;
- reduction in the course grade;
- a grade of "F" in the course; withdrawal from the course.

**Classroom Etiquette:** Students who frequently disregard the classroom etiquette policies will lose points on their participation grade.

1. **Do not leave the classroom unless it is an emergency.** Those who frequently get up and leave class disturb the learning environment for their colleagues. Thus, in general, do not leave the classroom unless it's an emergency. Of course, life happens and there may be times when you need to leave class early. If such an event occurs, please let me know at the beginning of class that you will be leaving early. Then sit near the door so you can leave with the least amount of distraction.

2. **Do not interrupt class with disruptive comments or chit-chatting.** You can refrain from communicating about non-class topics for the duration of the class. Make sure that when you speak in class, you are addressing everyone in attendance or in your small group. Whispering to a colleague during class time is not only disruptive it can make other students feel self-conscious. Frequent chit-chatting, murmuring, whispering, etc. is the most common way to lose valuable participation points. Students who continue to engage in such activity after being warned to stop. Continued disruptions will result in the student earning a "C," "D," or even an "F" for their final participation grade regardless of her/his previous performance during class discussion.
3. **Use electronic devices for classroom purposes only.** Do not surf the Internet, text, facebook, google, etc. during class. This is distracting to other students. Please feel free to use a laptop or other electronic device to access reading assignments (you may not use any electronic device during a quiz or exam for any reason, however), or to look up a word in translation. If you have a personal problem, and need to leave your cell phone on during class, please let me know at the beginning of class.
4. **Be respectful of your colleagues and of the instructor.** Do not make fun of other students' questions or comments during lecture or discussion. During group discussion, be considerate of others' opinion even if you disagree. I strongly encourage debate, but when debating you need to focus on the other person's arguments, not on personal attacks. Obviously, I will not tolerate derogatory comments about another's race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, political persuasion, body type, fashion sense, etc.

**Attend all class sessions, and any scheduled appointments.** Make it your goal to attend every class. If you make an appointment with the professor, be sure to notify the professor if you will be late or unable to make the appointment. Such habits will mean a lot less stress over the course of the semester. Of course, life happens. There may be times when illness, serious family obligations, car accidents, etc. require you to miss class. If outside forces dictate that you must miss class, notify the professor in advance, if possible. If you know you will be absent, it is always best to turn in any work before your absence.

## **Selected Studies in Philosophy Syllabus**

PHI 2931, Summer 2019, June 24 to July 26

### **Course & Faculty Information**

**Course :** PHI 2931 Selected Studies in Philosophy- Contemporary Ethical Problems- PHI1630

**Lecturer:** TBA

**E-mail:**TBA

**Time:** From Monday to Friday, 5 weeks

**Office Hours:** by appointment

**Credits:** 1

### **Course Description**

This course is scheduled for individual students who wish to explore topics supplementary to the curriculum in Contemporary Ethical Problems (PHI1630). **Pre-reqs:** To be taken in conjunction with Contemporary Ethical Problems (PHI1630).

### **Measurable Course Objectives**

Measurable Course Objectives are outcomes students are expected to achieve by the end of the course.

- Communicate thoughts, ideas, opinions, information and messages in writing.
- Consider diverse perspectives and alternative points of view.
- Select well-reasoned solutions to problems and use sound evidence to justify a position.
- Locate and use appropriate and relevant information from print and/or electronic information sources to match informational needs.
- Identify, analyze and evaluate information for relevancy, accuracy, authority, bias, currency and coverage.
- Use information ethically and legally.
- Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures, including global and historical.

### **Textbook Information**

There are no textbooks required for this course.

## Attendance Policy

The College recognizes the correlation between attendance and both student retention and achievement. Per [College Policy 3.060](#) **Students are expected to attend all classes, actively participate and complete all assigned course work for all courses for which they are registered.**

## Collegewide Student Learning Outcomes

The Collegewide Student Learning Outcomes assessed and reinforced in this course include the following:

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Global Sociocultural Responsibility

## Course Content:

You will be required to complete a project for this session. The project consists of weekly meetings, a web analysis, a class presentation and a reflection paper, which summarizes your findings. The purpose of this assignment is to provide the student with the opportunity to personally pursue an aspect of ethical interest, supplemental to the classroom experience.

## Grading Scale:

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = Below 60%

- 1 Discussion meetings 30%
- 2 Weekly reading summaries 20% (2 weeks, each worth 10% of grade)
- 2 Presentation outline 10%
- 3 Final presentation 20%
- 4 Reflection paper 20%

## Course Schedule

Discussion/update meetings will be held once a week as scheduled by the professor. The professor may schedule additional meetings at his discretion, if needed. The tasks for each week are listed below:

### Week 1

- Discussion meeting
- Introduction to the course and project

### Week 2

- Discussion meeting
- Weekly reading summary due

### Week 3

- Discussion meeting
- Weekly reading summary due

### Week 4

- Discussion meeting
- Presentation outline (will review; subject to revision after discussion)

### Week 5

- Class presentation
- Reflection paper
- Evaluation and summary

## Academic Integrity

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Plagiarism is unacceptable to the college community. Academic work that is submitted by students is assumed to be the result of their own thought, research or self-expression. When students borrow ideas, wording or organization from another source, they are expected to



acknowledge that fact in an appropriate manner. Plagiarism is the deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without identifying the source and trying to pass-off such work as the student's own. Any student who fails to give full credit for ideas or materials taken from another has plagiarized.

Students who share their work for the purpose of cheating on class assignments or tests are subject to the same penalties as the student who commits the act of cheating.

When cheating or plagiarism has occurred, instructors may take academic action that ranges from denial of credit for the assignment or a grade of "F" on a specific assignment, examination or project, to the assignment of a grade of "F" for the course. Students may also be subject to further sanctions imposed by the judicial officer, such as disciplinary probation, suspension or dismissal from the College.