

Contemporary Ethical Problems Syllabus

PHI 1630, 2018 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: Mondays and Tuesdays from 12:00 to 1:00pm

Office Location: TBD

Credit: 3

Course Description

There is not a single human being who ever existed that at some point was not confronted with an ethical decision he or she had to exercise. When we are confronted with an ethical dilemma, what do we appeal to in order to act morally? In this course we will discuss exactly this phenomenon. The class will occur in two parts. We will begin by reviewing different ethical systems and theories that are part of the Western philosophical tradition. These include such positions as virtue ethics, utilitarianism, deontological ethics and others. For the second half of the course we will take our newly acquired knowledge of such schools of thought and apply them to contemporary ethical issues. These include such things as euthanasia, abortion, economic justice, environmental ethics and many others. In the last analysis, by coming to grips with different ethical theories, this course will enable students to acquire their own ethical stances. Being well versed in ethics not only leads to acting morally in the world with others, it leads to personal fulfillment, indeed a life well lived.

Textbook Information

Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues (Note: it is important that students have the 8th edition of this text because assignments will be keyed to the pages of this particular text. I will provide the TA this text.)

Type: Book

Author: Barbara MacKinnon and Andrew Fiala

Edition: 8th

Copyright: 2015

Publisher: Cengage Learning

ISBN: 1285196759

Status: Required

Measurable Course Objectives

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

- Be able to identify different ethical theories with various thinkers.
- Understand how philosophical issues are related to life in general and contemporary problems in particular.
- Understand how ethical values are generated and used in particular circumstances.
- Develop cogent writing skills by cultivating the ethical ideas of different thinkers, critiquing them, and formulating an evaluation of them in one's own writing.

College-wide Student Learning Outcomes

The College-wide 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

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

- Class Discussion Participation - 10%

Those who participate *regularly* in class discussion will receive the full 10%. If you participate less, you will receive less. If you do not participate (or only rarely) you will not receive any participation percentage points.

- Two 3-5 page Essays on a Topic of Your Choice, Relevant to Our Readings - 30% (15% each)

The two papers will consist of a reflection and critique on any aspect of the readings. You may choose the topics that interest you and then evaluate the thinker's position and offer your own argument as to why that thinker's position is well argued or not.

- Midterm Exam - 30%
- Final Exam - 30%

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. The professor may modify this schedule due to the pace of the class and time constraints.

Week 1 – Introduction and Ethical Theory

- Introduction to the course/syllabus/Ethical Theory Overview pp. 1-19
- Religion and Global Ethics pp. 20-45
- Ethical Relativism pp. 46-66
- Egoism, Altruism, and the Social Contract pp. 67-90
- TA - Review

Week 2 – Ethical Theory Cont.

- Utilitarianism pp. 91- 109
- Deontological Ethics pp. 110-132
- Natural Law pp. 133-148
- Virtue Ethics pp. 149-172
- TA – Review and First 3-5 page paper due

Week 3 – From Ethical Theory to Ethical Issues and Practice

- Midterm Exam
- Feminist Thought and Ethics pp. 173-194
- Euthanasia pp. 195-222
- Abortion pp. 223-260
- TA – Review

Week 4 – Ethical Issues and Practice Cont.

- Sexual Morality pp. 261-291
- Equality and Discrimination pp. 292-326
- Economic Justice pp. 327-361
- Punishment/The Death Penalty pp. 363-398
- TA – Review and Second 3-5 page paper due

Week 5 – Ethical Issues and Practice Cont.

- Environmental Ethics pp. 399-436

- Animal Ethics pp. 438-469
- Biotechnology and Bioengineering / Review pp. 470-506
- Final Exam
- TA Consultation/Grading

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.

You can view the complete attendance and academic policies from the college catalog at:
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.