

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	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?

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