

**I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

A. Department Information:  
Division: Social Sciences  
Department: Philosophy  
Course ID: PHIL 105  
Course Title: Introduction to Ethics  
Units: 3  
Lecture: 3 Hours  
Prerequisite: None

B. Description for Catalog:  
Moral philosophy with an analysis of the basic ideas and principles involved in moral conduct and including the concepts of good, right, obligation and conscience. Problems of truthfulness, race, sex, marriage and war are examined in relation to moral philosophy. Special attention is given to contemporary problems of value pertinent to the interests of students majoring in medical arts and in administration of justice.

C. Description for Schedule:  
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**II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: One**

**III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS:**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- A. Create and articulate a historical, cultural, and/or intellectual matrix within which the concerns and the questions of the discipline of ethics can be placed;
- B. Read and critically evaluate selected primary sources in the tradition of ethics (including but not limited to, dialogues, aphorisms, essays, sermons, theological treatises, credal formulae, novels, and short stories);
- C. Respond critically, analytically, and/or synthetically in writing to issues dealing with the tradition of ethics (including but not limited to professional ethics, teleological and deontological approaches, as well as ethical issues raised in politics and literature);
- D. Apply the ideas and concepts in the tradition of ethics to contemporary experience

**IV. COURSE CONTENT:**

- A. Introduction
  1. Ethical language
  2. Philosophical pitfalls
- B. Ethical Theories
  1. Utilitarianism
  2. Deontology
  3. Virtue Ethics
- C. Care and Justice
  1. Ethics of Care
  2. Economic Justice
- D. Moral Problems
  1. Pornography
  2. Abortion
  3. Surrogacy and Maternal-fetal Conflicts
  4. Sexual matters

5. Affirmative Action
6. Poverty

**V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussions (class and group)
- C. Audio-Visuals
- D. Reading of texts, both secondary and primary
- E. Writing tasks appropriate for the material
- F. Computer Tutorials (if applicable)

**VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:**

A. Reading: Read John Stuart Mill's Utilitarianism. Be able to summarize the progression of the argument by paraphrasing the key ideas in each chapter. Read Martin Luther King's Letter From a Birmingham Jail. Be able to summarize the progression of the argument by paraphrasing the key ideas in each paragraph. Compare and contrast the utilitarian approach with the moral law approach in the above two selections.

B. Writing, critical thinking: Write a lengthy letter to Dr. Jack Kevorkian in which you state whether you agree with his basic idea of physician assisted suicide for those people who have a terminal illness and who are suffering incredible pain. As you develop your ideas, cite ethical theorists from the utilitarian, deontological, and virtue ethics traditions. Further, make sure to apply those theories to aspects of your experience that relate to the issues of death, suffering, medical treatment of terminal illnesses, or individual autonomy.

**VII. EVALUATION:**

A. Methods of evaluation will vary from instructor to instructor, but may include true-false tests, multiple choice tests, or sentence completion tests. In addition, written components such as essay tests, writing tasks (i.e. journals, summary reviews, interpretive essays, and/or term projects) will be included. Telecomputing can include downloading and uploading reading and writing tasks, on-line discussion, and computer tutorials. Grading may be comparative within a class or may be based on an absolute standard.

1. Sample objective test question: Aristotle would be best classified under:
  - A. virtue ethics
  - B. feminist ethics
  - C. relativism
  - D. deontology
  - E. none of the above
2. Sample subjective test question: Describe "virtue ethics" giving examples from classical theory, contemporary theory, and applying "virtue ethics" to a contemporary problem.

B. While the frequency of evaluation will depend on the type of evaluation (i.e. "objective" or written), evaluation will take place periodically throughout the semester with enough frequency to be sufficient to measure student progress and will be sensitive to the various learning styles of students. The minimum evaluation will consist of at least two evaluative instruments (i.e., papers projects, portfolios, or tests) chosen by the instructor of record for the class).

**VIII. TYPICAL TEXTS:**

- A. Rosenstand, Nina. The Moral of the Story: An Introduction to Ethics. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Co., 1997.
- B. Curzer, Howard J. Ethical Theory and Moral Problems. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1999.

**IX. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:**

Supplementary material may include handouts, primary sources, maps, study guides, computer disks, and/or software.