

Prepared by the Department of Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, and Human Services

Date of Departmental Approval: April 11, 2011

Date approved by Curriculum and Programs: September 28, 2011

Effective: Fall 2011

1. Course Number: PHI210
Course Title: Ethics

2. Description: This course provides a rigorous and thorough examination of the major ethical theories in the history of Western philosophy, covering the work of such philosophers as Plato, Aristotle, Epicurus, Augustine, Aquinas, Kant, Hobbes, Rousseau, Nietzsche, Mill, Marx, Kierkegaard, Sartre, Ayer, and contemporary writers such as Callahan, Raz, Rawls, Nozick, and Frankl. The early part of the course is a study of metaethics and of the terminology used in doing ethical analysis. The body of the course involves the study of five major theories of normative ethics: natural law theories, social contract theories, duty-based (deontological) theories, utilitarian (teleological) theories, and existentialist theories. Skeptical alternatives to these theories are also considered. In the last month of the semester, each student is expected to focus on a project dealing with a specific ethical theory or problem area.

3. Student Learning Outcomes (instructional objectives, intellectual skills):

Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following.

- Write in a logically coherent manner, using outlining techniques and citing sources from both primary and secondary materials.
- Compare and contrast various Philosophical theories
- Express in coherent form the various arguments for and against a number of ethical theories.
- Apply a number of ethical terms and concepts learned to various ethical theories in the history of Western civilization.
- Analyze international issues surrounding the study of ethics by working with and considering ethical theories from France, Germany, the Middle East, England, Scotland, the United States.
- Compare and contrast a wide range of international ethical theories, applying them, where appropriate, to their own personal lives.

4. Credits: Three Credits

5. Satisfies a General Education Requirement: Humanities & Fine Arts (or) Behavioral or Social Sciences

6. Prerequisite: ENL101 or PHI130

7. Semester Offered: Fall

8. Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation: Evaluation of student performance includes quizzes, written exams, and a comprehensive final written project.

9. General Topical Outline (Optional):

- Branches of Philosophy
- The Nature of Ethics
- Freedom and Determinism
- Cultural Relativism
- What is Morality?
- Ethical Egoism
- Social Contract Ethics
- Utilitarian Ethics
- Kant's Deontology
- Qualities of Sound Ethical Theories