



BRANDMAN
University Chapman University
System

School of Arts & Sciences Course Syllabus

Course Number/Title/Credits: PHLU 104/ Introduction to Ethics/3 credits

Catalog Course Description: This course surveys questions and issues that arise in the field of ethics, along with the moral theories that address them. Students will reflect upon consequential, duty-based, virtue-based, and care-based theories of morality. They will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of these theories independently and as they apply to contemporary moral problems, such as abortion, torture, the death penalty, euthanasia, sexual morality, drug policy, and animal rights. Students will not only become familiar with the field of ethics, but they will also sharpen their abilities to think critically about complex moral issues, while forming responses and critiquing ethical positions from their own perspectives. 3 credits.

LEARNING OUTCOMES and ASSESSMENT:

Learning Outcomes are statements that specify what learners will know, understand, or be able to demonstrate at the end of a learning experience.

Types of Learning Outcomes include:

- Course Learning Outcome – Result of finishing a course.
- Program Learning Outcome – Result of finishing a program.
- Institutional Learning Outcome – Result of finishing a degree at an institution, reflecting the core learning values and experiences of all graduates.

A Signature Assignment is an assignment used to measure a student's mastery of a program or institutional learning outcome. If a course you are taking includes a Signature Assignment, it will be clearly marked (**SIGNATURE ASSIGNMENT**).

Access the following link(s) for information on the Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and Curriculum Map related to this course:

[Click Here for Learning Outcomes](#)

Access the following link(s) for information on the Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) and Curriculum Map related to this course:

[Click Here for Learning Outcomes](#)

Prerequisites: None

Restrictions: None

Essential Equipment and Facilities: By the end of the first week of class, students must have the ability to access MyBrandman, the Blackboard portal to their class site, and other key locations necessary to meet course requirements. Individual browser preferences vary, and, at times, some work with Blackboard better than others. Therefore, if you try one browser, such as Firefox, and you have difficulty, try another browser, such as Internet Explorer. Since versions of Microsoft Office vary, students who do not use the most recent version may need the free conversion software available via the Microsoft.com website. Java is also required for courses. Students who do not have Java may download it for free at java.com.

Academic Integrity: As a learning community of scholars, Brandman University emphasizes the ethical responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work. Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or misrepresentation of information in oral or written form. Plagiarism means presenting someone else's idea or writing as if it were your own. If you use someone else's idea or writing, be sure the source is clearly documented. Further information may be found in the *Brandman University Catalog* available under Academic Resources in MyBrandman.

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement: According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, an individual with disability is defined as having functional limitations resulting from a diagnosed disability and applies to an individual who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the individual's major life activities; has a record of such an impairment; or is regarded as having such an impairment. In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that may impair or impact their ability to successfully complete assignments, tasks or satisfy course criteria are requested to notify their Advisor or Campus Director in order to understand how to apply for Student Disability Services. If and when the student is granted formal approval by the Director of ADA Services, both the student and professor will be notified. It is highly suggested that the student contact their professor to discuss the accommodations during the first week of the session. The granting of accommodations will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

University Policies: Students are responsible for complying with university policies including, but not limited to: incompletes, course drops, and student conduct. Information may be found in the *Brandman University Catalog* available under Academic Resources in MyBrandman.

Online Brandman Library Resources: Click on red "Library" button in Blackboard.

Texts are available at the Brandman Online Bookstore: See "Bookstore" under Academic Resources in MyBrandman.

Required Text: Thiroux, Jacques P. and Krasemann, Keith W. *Ethics: Theory and Practice, Updated Edition*. 11th ed., Pearson, 2016. ISBN-13: 978-0134010205

Course Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Recognize moral questions and issues as distinguished from other types of normative questions and issues (e.g. legal, practical).
2. Explain the role of ethical and cultural relativism and varying responses to these perspectives.
3. Evaluate ethical positions using descriptive, normative, and metaethical approaches (e.g. moral skepticism) to analyze selected contemporary ethical issues.
4. Explain consequential, duty-based, virtue-based, and care-based moral theories.
5. Compare strengths and weaknesses of different ethical theories.
6. Apply moral theories to contemporary moral problems.

Major Study Units:

1. Introduction to Ethics, Moral Objectivity and Moral Relativism

2. Consequentialist and non-consequentialist ethics
3. Virtue Ethics, freedom and determinism
4. Distribution of goods, Criminal punishment, the death penalty, and Humanitarian ethics.
5. The taking of human life, including suicide, war, and capital punishment, and allowing someone to die, mercy death, and mercy killing.
6. Abortion, lying, cheating, stealing and breaking promises
7. Marriage, morality and sexuality, bioethics
8. Business ethics, Environmental ethics

Instructional Strategies: This class includes readings, textual and video instruction, exercises, discussions, and projects. Instructional Strategies may be further explained in the course Blackboard site.

Attendance Policy:

Requirements for students' attendance and participation will be defined by each instructor based on the following policy:

- Monday of the first week is considered the first day of class for online and blended instruction. This includes instruction for fully online classes and online instruction supporting blended classes.
- Regular onsite attendance is expected for student success. If a student misses more than one onsite class or one week of engagement in an online class, the student may, at the discretion of the instructor, fail the course. Students are expected to attend all classes, particularly the first night of class.
- Students should consider withdrawing from a course if they will be absent more than once. Instructors may, but are not obligated to, accommodate students under extraordinary circumstances, but the student must request accommodation and provide requested supporting documentation. Students enrolled in blended courses must attend at least one class during the first two weeks of classes.
- If a student misses a portion (e.g., arriving late or leaving early) of an onsite course, the student's grade may be adversely affected. Students who are not in attendance for at least 75 percent of any scheduled class may be considered absent for that class. Students should discuss missing portions of a class with their instructor to determine how their grade may be affected.
- Regular online attendance/participation and engagement is expected for student success in both fully online and blended courses. Online participation is evident through posting to a discussion board, blog, completing assignments including journal entries, or taking quizzes and exams.
- Schools and programs may have different attendance policies. Refer to school and program specific information for additional attendance policies.

Methods of Evaluation and determining grades (blended): Discussion boards 240 points, papers 360 points, panel discussion 120 points.

Assignment Detail: (blended)

| Assignments - Refer to Rubric(s) in Course Information on Blackboard | Possible Points |
|---|------------------------|
| 8 discussion boards, 30 points per week | 240 points |
| Three papers, due weeks 2, 4, and 8 | 360 points |
| Panel Discussion | 120 points |

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|--------------|------------|
| Total points | 720 points |
|--------------|------------|

Class by Class Outline: (blended course)

| Week | Topics | Assignments |
|-------------|--|---|
| Week 1 | Understanding morality The relation between religion and morality Moral objectivity and moral relativism | Read chapters 1 and 5 Discussion boards participation |
| Week 2 | Consequentialist and nonconsequentialist moral theories | Read chapters 2 and 3 Discussion boards and first paper First paper due |
| Week 3 | Virtue Ethics and Freedom and Determinism | Read chapters 4 and 6 Discussion board participation |
| Week 4 | Reward and punishment Setting up a moral system | Read chapters 7 and 8 Discussion board participation Second paper due |
| Week 5 | The taking of human life Allowing someone to die, mercy death, and mercy killing | Read chapters 9 and 10 Discussion board participation Create panels for contemporary moral issues |
| Week 6 | Abortion Lying, cheating, stealing and breaking promises | Read chapters 11 and 12 Discussion board participation Panel discussion for the groups chosen in Week 5 |
| Week 7 | Marriage, morality and sexuality, bioethics | Read chapters 13 and 14 Discussion board participation |
| Week 8 | Business and media | Read chapters 15 and 16 |

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| ethics | Discussion board participation |
| Environmental ethics | Final paper due |

Letter Grade/Percentage Equivalents:

| Grade Point System (Rounded up at .5 and up) | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| A = 93%-100% | B = 83%-86% | C = 73%-76% | D = 63%-66% |
| A- = 90%-92% | B- = 80%-82% | C- = 70%-72% | D- = 60%-62% |
| B+ = 87%-89% | C+ = 77%-79% | D+ = 67%-69% | F=59% and below |

Methods of Evaluation for Determining Grades (online): Discussion boards 240 points, papers 480 points.

Assignment Detail for online course:

| Assignments - Refer to Rubric(s) in Course Information on Blackboard | Possible Points |
|--|-----------------|
| 8 discussion boards, 30 points per week | 240 points |
| Four papers, due weeks 2, 4, and 6, and 8 | 480 points |
| Total points | 720 points |

Class by Class Outline for Fully Online course:

| Week | Topics | Assignments |
|--------|--|---|
| Week 1 | Understanding morality The relation between religion and morality Moral objectivity and moral relativism | Read chapters 1 and 5 Discussion boards participation |
| Week 2 | Consequentialist and nonconsequentialist moral theories | Read chapters 2 and 3 Discussion boards and first paper First paper due |
| Week 3 | Virtue Ethics and Freedom and Determinism | Read chapters 4 and 6 Discussion board participation |

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|--------|---|--|
| Week 4 | Reward and punishment Setting up a moral system | Read chapters 7 and 8 Discussion board participation Second paper due |
| Week 5 | The taking of human life Allowing someone to die, mercy death, and mercy killing | Read chapters 9 and 10 Discussion board participation |
| Week 6 | Abortion Lying, cheating, stealing and breaking promises | Read chapters 11 and 12 Discussion board participation Third paper due |
| Week 7 | Marriage, morality and sexuality, bioethics | Read chapters 13 and 14 Discussion board participation |
| Week 8 | Business and media ethics Environmental ethics | Read chapters 15 and 16 Discussion board participation Final paper due |