



Course Number, Title and Credits

PHLU 104 - Introduction to Ethics - 3 credits

Course Catalog 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**).

[Click here](#) to access information on the Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and/or Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) and Curriculum Map related to this course.

Essential Equipment

All students must have reliable access to a working computer with Internet access throughout each week of the class. Each student will need to be able to access and work in the University's online Learning Management System, Blackboard. For more information about personal computer requirements [click here](#).

Academic Integrity

As a learning community of scholars, the University of Massachusetts Global emphasizes the ethical responsibility of all its members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work, and 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. Such violations will be dealt with severely by the instructor, the dean/center director, and the standards committee. 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." Other guidelines for acceptable student behavior are specified in the University Catalog.

UMass Global online library resources: <https://www.chapman.edu/library/umassglobal>

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: <http://catalog.brandman.edu/>

Required Textbooks

Ethics

Theory and Practice
978-0134010205

Ethics: Theory and Practice introduces ethical theory and its applications in a way that beginning students can understand. Delivering a balanced overview of the discipline, authors Jacques Thiroux and Keith Krasemann devote eight chapters to key ethical theories – including both Western and non-Western ethical theories and moral perspectives. The subsequent eight chapters are dedicated to applied ethics, focusing on topics such as euthanasia, abortion, bioethics, and business ethics. Eight closing

appendices on Thiroux's theory of Humanitarian Ethics and the application of this theory to moral problems further encourage students to focus on applying ethical theory in real-world scenarios.

NOTE: This ISBN is for a Pearson Books a la Carte edition: a convenient, three-hole-punched, loose-leaf text. In addition to the flexibility offered by this format, Books a la Carte editions offer students great value, as they cost significantly less than a bound textbook.

Thiroux, Jacques P. and Krasemann, Keith W.
Pearson
2016
Books a la Carte - 11th Edition
Loose Leaf
320

All student textbooks are available at the University of Massachusetts Global Bookstore:

<https://www.bkstr.com/umassglobal/home>

Course Learning Outcomes

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 are further explained in the Blackboard course shell.

Attendance Policy

Requirements for student 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 who will miss more than one class have the responsibility to discuss their attendance with the instructor in advance. Students should also 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.
- 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, wiki, virtual office or classroom meeting, a drop box, attending a virtual seminar, completing real-time activities or quizzes, or other course-related activities (synchronous or asynchronous).
- Schools and programs may have different attendance policies. Refer to school and program specific information for additional attendance policies.

Letter Grade/Percentage Equivalents

Grade Point System (Rounded up at .5 and up)

A = 94%-100%	B = 84%-86%	C = 74%-76%	D = 64%-66%
A- = 90%-93%	B- = 80%-83%	C - = 70%-73%	D - = 60%-63%
B+ = 87%-89%	C+ = 77%-79%	D+ = 67%-69%	F = 59% and below

Methods of Evaluation for Determining Grades

Assignment Detail for Fully 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	Read chapters 1 and 5 Discussion boards participation

	Moral objectivity and moral relativism	
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
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

Methods of Evaluation for Determining Grades

Assignment Detail for Blended Course:

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
Total points	720 points

Class by Class Outline for 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	Read chapters 11 and 12 Discussion board participation

	Lying, cheating, stealing and breaking promises	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 ethics Environmental ethics	Read chapters 15 and 16 Discussion board participation Final paper due

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement

For students who require disability-related services or accommodations to access to their educational experience can register with the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). The Office of Accessible Education (OAE) is committed to ensuring equal educational access and opportunity for all members of our academic community. Students will be provided equitable and reasonable accommodations and services that are in compliance with [Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#) and the [Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 \(ADA\)/Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 \(ADAA\)](#). Registration with OAE is on a voluntary, self-identifying basis. Please visit the [Office of Accessible Education \(OAE\)](#) website for more information about how to register for services, eligibility requirements, and information about potential academic accommodations and services.

UMass Global's Behavioral Intervention Team

The University of Massachusetts Global Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) addresses situations in which students, faculty, staff, vendors, contractors, or general visitors are displaying behaviors that are concerning, disruptive, or threatening in nature and that potentially impede their own or others' ability to function successfully or safely. The mission of the University Behavioral Intervention Team is to provide a proactive and supportive multidisciplinary team approach to prevention, assessment, and early intervention of situations or individuals that may pose a threat to the safety and wellbeing of themselves or the University community as a whole.

It is the responsibility of faculty, staff, and students to immediately report any situation that could possibly result in harm to anyone at the University to the BIT by calling 949-383-3119, emailing safe@umassglobal.edu, or by filling out the BIT referral form [here](#). For more additional information on the University Behavioral Intervention Team, please

visit our website [here](#). A “crisis” is defined as a situation in which a person may pose an active or immediate risk of violence to self or others. In these cases, the local police should be contacted by calling 911.

UMass Global's Title IX Statement

The University of Massachusetts Global strives to maintain and foster a climate that promotes respect and human dignity. Sexual misconduct and relationship violence in any form is antithetical to the university’s mission and core values, violates university policies, and may also violate federal and state law. The office of Title IX is primarily concerned for students' safety and well-being and is tasked with investigating all reports of sexual misconduct experienced by our community members. Title IX prohibits sex-based and gender-based discrimination and harassment, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy and/or pregnancy-related complications, parental status, and marital status. Students expecting or experiencing pregnancy-related complications, that may require educational accommodations, should contact the University’s Title IX Coordinator and/or the Office of Accessible Education.

The University and Title IX’s prohibition of sex discrimination also covers sexual harassment, sexual violence, and any other form of sexual misconduct. We offer options and resources to all students affected by these issues and are committed to providing a fair, thorough, and prompt investigation and adjudication process. If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexual assault, dating, and domestic violence, stalking, or sexual exploitation, please visit the [University's Title IX Resource Page](#) to access additional resources and information.

UMass Global's staff and faculty are tasked with reporting any possible sex or gender-based discrimination or Title IX violations to the University’s Title IX Coordinator at civilrightscomplaints@umassglobal.edu.

[Click on this Link to our University Title IX Policy](#)