

ETHICS

Instructor Information:

Name: Dr. Jack W. Corvin, Jr.

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Reading Material:

All reading material will be posted on Brightspace. You cannot pass the course if you do not read all of the material carefully, so get started on it early each week!

Graded Work:

Introduction	5 points
Quizzes	120 points (20 points each)
Discussion Posts	60 points (10 points each)
Final Exam	50 points

Introduction:

A link will be provided under the Start Here module for you to introduce yourself to the class. Post a picture of yourself *without a mask* and tell us a little bit about your interests, your goals, or your hobbies. This is a graded assignment.

Quizzes and Final Exam:

The quizzes and final exam will be comprehensive and will consist primarily of True/False and Multiple Choice questions. Any material that has been covered or mentioned since the beginning of the course may appear on a quiz or the final exam.

Note: Quizzes will consist of 20 questions. Each week, you must complete that week's quiz by Sunday evening at 11:59 PM. After 11:59, that particular quiz will be closed, and you will not be able to access it again.

You will have plenty of time to complete each quiz, but you must study the assigned material *very* carefully if you want to do well on a quiz.

Practice quizzes will be available to help you prepare for each week's quiz. You may take the practice quizzes as many times as you like.

The final exam will be very similar to the quizzes, but it will consist of 50 questions.

Note: The amount of help you receive from me will depend on how much effort you put into the class. Do not ask me for help if you have not made every effort to help yourself. Also, do not wait until exam time to ask me for help. I strongly urge you to use the Chat Room to make comments and ask questions!

Discussion Posts:

Each week, you will be expected to post something on the Discussion Board. I will post at least one question or problem that I want you to consider, and you will have a chance to respond to me and to each other. Your post should make it clear that you are reading all of the assigned material and that you are putting a lot of thought into the question or problem being posed.

These discussion posts will count toward your final grade, so you must take them seriously and post them in a thoughtful, timely manner. They will be due by each Saturday at 11:59 PM.

You will need to respond to the question or problem that is posed by me *and* to at least one other post by a fellow student. When you respond to a fellow student, you may do so in the form of a comment or a question.

In ALL cases, your posts should be respectful to me and to your fellow students. Posts that are deliberately insulting or derogatory in any way will not be tolerated and will be removed from the Discussion Board. Nevertheless, I want you to feel free to share your thoughts and views on a variety of topics. My aim is not to tell you what to believe. My aim is to get you to think carefully about what you believe and about the beliefs of others. You are NOT expected to agree with what anyone else says (including me), but you will be required to give reasons for the things you say. In other words, simply claiming that something is true is not the same as giving reasons for why anyone should believe that something is true.

Chat Room:

A chat room will be available for your own questions and comments regarding any philosophical points that occur to you. I'm quite sure that most of you have wondered about things that are important to you, but that are not covered in your other courses. In the chat room, you may post your thoughts and concerns about these things and invite others to respond to you. If you have specific questions for me, I will try to address them. The chat room is not a graded assignment, but your participation in it will be an effective demonstration of your genuine engagement in the course!

I am not going to share my own views with you, so do not ask me for them. If I post a question or an objection to your stated views, be assured that I am not saying that you are wrong. I am simply trying to get you to *think*! Too many people make claims for which they provide little or no evidence, and this can be a very dangerous, very divisive thing.

Attendance Policy:

Each week, you will need to accomplish certain tasks. Some of them will have due dates, but some will not. In any case, you are required to log in frequently to the course on Brightspace. I will be able to see whether you log in *and* how often you log in. You cannot pass the course if you fail to do the assignments, and you cannot do the assignments if you don't log in and see what is being assigned. I expect to see a lot of activity from you each week during the course.

Class Participation:

Since we will not be meeting in the classroom, I expect each of you to participate regularly in class discussions through the Discussion Board and the Chat Room. This will show me how much effort you are putting into the course.

Course Goal and Learning Objectives:

Course Goal: Students will acquire the basic vocabulary and theoretical framework needed to engage in philosophical discussions regarding the nature and grounds of morality.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will be able to recognize and identify the branches and sub-branches of philosophy.
2. Students will be able to recognize and identify Aristotle's theory of virtue.
3. Students will be able to recognize and identify the utilitarian theories of Bentham and Mill.
4. Students will be able to recognize and identify Kant's deontological theory.
5. Students will be able to recognize how the various theories can be applied to actual moral issues.

Quizzes and the final exam will be the primary means of assessing these learning objectives. However, I expect to see clear evidence in the discussion posts that the course goal is being achieved.

Use of Brightspace:

Students will need to make extensive use of Brightspace. All of the material needed to succeed in the course will be available under Contents, Discussions, and Quizzes. Here is a partial list of that material:

1. Syllabus, FAQs, Course Guidelines
2. Course Outline
3. Notes covering the branches of philosophy, Aristotle's virtue ethics, Bentham's and Mill's utilitarian ethics, and Kant's deontological ethics
4. Quizzes and exams
5. Discussion Board
6. Jeopardy games
7. Spreadsheet for determining grades

Academic Integrity:

In all instances, policies identified in the Ferrum College Catalog and the Ferrum College Student and Faculty Handbooks regarding the Honor System shall be followed. Students are expected to display academic integrity at all times and in all circumstances.

Office of Academic Accessibility (OAA) information for students with disability documentation:

As directed by Ferrum College's policy, any student with a disability who qualifies for and seeks academic accommodations (for example, testing accommodations or other services) must work through the Office for

Academic Accessibility for accommodations. The office is located in Lower Stanley Library, Office 110 and the director may be reached by email at nbeach@ferrum.edu.

Please remember that accommodations cannot be granted retroactively; they must be requested in a timely manner prior to when the accommodation is needed and Ferrum's established procedures must be followed. If you have any concerns, make an appointment with the director.

Students who wish to use accommodations through OAA should meet with the director during the first weeks of the semester to discuss the process, and for specific information are encouraged to read the procedures manual found at www.ferrum.edu/accessibility.

Civility in the Classroom Policy

Civil behavior and mutual respect between faculty and students are critical in the college classroom environment if teaching, learning, critical thinking, and sharing of ideas are to occur. Respectful and civil behavior at a very basic level includes the following: turning off cell phones; arriving to class on time; engaging appropriately in classroom activities, lecture, or discussion through attentive listening without interruption or side chats; and demonstrating the ability to discuss topics without inappropriate language or attacking others (physically or verbally). Students who do not comply with the Civility in the Classroom policy described in the Faculty Handbook and the Student Handbook may be removed from the academic setting and may risk serious consequences as outlined in the Civility policy.