



## COURSE SYLLABUS

**COURSE TITLE:** Ethics

**TERM & YEAR:** Spring Semester 2020

**COURSE & SECTION NUMBER:** PHL 313

**TIME & PLACE:** Asynchronous - Online

**NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** A study of ethical language, methods of justifying ethical decisions and types of ethical value systems, with emphasis on practical applications in terms of personal and social morality.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Upon completion of this course, the student should be familiar with basic theories of ethics, and should be able to:

- A. Compare and contrast each of the major theories - utilitarianism, egoism, and deontological systems.
- B. Describe how each major ethical theory can be applied to contemporary ethical issues in society.
- C. Examine primary philosophical concepts such as free will and determinism.

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**REQUIRED TEXT:** Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues 9<sup>th</sup> Edition ISBN 978-1-305-95867-8

**REFERENCES:** Listed in Moodle course.

**OTHER MATERIALS:** We will be reading case law in this course through Lexis Academic. There will be times you will need to pull the case on your own. To access and print a case, you will need to use Lexis Academic available through the Trine Library. To access Lexis, follow the following steps:

- Go to: [www.trine.edu/lis](http://www.trine.edu/lis)
- Click on Full List of Online Resources
- Click Lexis Academic
- Log in
- In the center of the screen it will say "Look up a Legal Case"
- Below that it will say "By Citation" with a box below.
- You can enter the case citation into that box to pull the cases you need for this class.
- Ex. To pull the case *Locurto v. Giuliani*, 447 F.3d 159 (2006), you will type into the box the following: 447 F.3d 159

To access Lexis, your username is the first part of your Trine email address. The password should be your birthday or your social security number. If you cannot access Lexis, call the IT Help Desk to reset your password at 260-665-4275.

**ONLINE COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** You are expected to read the PowerPoint Lecture if applicable and do all of the readings on the syllabus for that week. You will be given assignments and forum discussions over the material for that week. Each of the items posted, with a few exceptions, will be due the following Sunday by 11:59 P.M. Any items not submitted by 11:59 P.M. on Sunday will be considered late and a zero will be assigned for that assignment. Only emergency circumstances such as a severe illness, death of a family member, etc. will warrant an extension of an assignment deadline. Therefore, be sure to respect and promptly observe the assignment deadlines. Please contact me as soon as possible if an emergency situation arises, so we may discuss, in advance, an appropriate extension of your assignment deadline.

The Mid-Term Examination will be due in Week 4. The Final Project will be due in Week 8. Specific due dates for the examinations will be announced when the exams are posted.

**To submit assignments, please upload them to Moodle.**

**GRADES:**

A	90-100
B+	86-89
B	80-85
C+	76-79
C	70-75
D+	66-69
D	60-65
F	Below 60

**GRADING/EVALUATION:**

**Midterm Paper:** There will be a Mid-term Project due by Sunday at midnight of week 4. The midterm paper must be submitted electronically via Moodle by the deadline provided. If the instructor does not receive the assignment on time, the student will not receive credit for that assignment. No late assignments will be accepted. It will make up a total of 40% of your overall grade.

**Final Project:** There will be a final project due by midnight, Thursday of week eight. The final project must be submitted electronically via Moodle by the deadline provided. If the instructor does not receive the assignment on time, the student will not receive credit for that assignment. No late assignments will be accepted. The Final Project makes up a total of 40% of the overall grade.

**Participation:** Students are required to participate in weekly forum postings on Moodle or in class discussions. Class participation is worth 20% of the overall grade.

**A note on participation:** Students are expected to engage in all class activities in both seated and online classes. Students should be prepared for each class and actively participate in discussions. Work should extend far beyond the simple regurgitation of class notes, PowerPoint presentations, lectures, or Internet sources, and class participation should reflect critical thinking.

**NOTE:** All written assignments must conform to the guidelines set forth by the American Psychological Association.

**FEEDBACK:**

<b>Response Time to Emails</b>	All emails will be answered within 24 hours.
<b>Response Time for Feedback on Assignments</b>	I will return assignments with grades and comments within 72 hours of submission. I will provide detailed feedback and enter comments for all your assignments.
<b>Type of Feedback to Be Expected</b>	As noted above, I make comments for all your assignments. Sometimes I may even attach a file with corrections or notes. Please make sure you read all my comments. This is part of your learning process. Feel free to ask questions regarding your grade and my comments.

**ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION:** All students are expected to log in to their courses regularly throughout the week to receive instruction, materials, and updates from the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to check in, submit assignments, discussion board postings, and/or finish quizzes and exams by the due dates.

Students that do not participate in the course will be counted absent. Simply logging in is not enough; you must submit/complete an assignment, post to a discussion board, or other similar assignment tasks to avoid being counted absent. Instructors are required to submit attendance the Monday following each week of class.

Attendance is reported to the Financial Aid Department and may result in the loss of any financial aid refund you are expecting if you have not been participating in your courses. **In addition, you will be administratively dropped from the course if you are reported absent a total of three weeks.**

**DISCUSSION BOARD CONDUCT:**

1. Participation in the Discussion Board each week is expected and is essential.

**General Guidelines for Online Discussions:** For the online discussions, you must not only respond to the instructor's questions, but carry on a dialogue with classmates as well. These are discussions and not just question and answer sessions. Good discussions are one of the items that make a good online course and establish community. If you only respond to the instructor's question, it makes the discussion more of an "exam" rather than a dialogue.

- (i) Do not get caught up in "winning" the debate. You are here to learn the material and to discuss matters of importance with others.
- (ii) Read all postings from classmates, not just those from the instructor. Sometimes exam questions are based on the insights of your classmates.
- (iii) If there are questions regarding the reading material, ask them as soon as possible.
- (iv) When you reply to a post, don't just say "I agree." Give the person's name you are agreeing with, and summarize your agreement. You might also consider changing the subject line to reflect your post.
- (v) You should plan on having, at a minimum, your first post completed **11:59 p.m. on Wednesdays and your second by 11:59 p.m. on Sundays** of each week. Two posts is the bare minimum. More is expected to earn a discussion grade of "A" for the week. Late posts do not count for grading purposes.
- (vi) If you express an opinion, support it with material from our readings. When you quote, summarize, or paraphrase from the text be sure to give the page number(s) -- This is important!

**Discussion Grade Guidelines:** These are general guidelines that will be applied when grading your weekly discussion.

- (i) For an "A": a weekly discussion grade of "A" will require you to have all your postings completed by the deadlines, demonstrate excellent knowledge and understanding of the week's readings, responses, and questions for your classmates, and at least **two or more quality postings** per week spread out over the entire session. Your views, opinions, and thoughts must be documented from the class material. For example, if you express an opinion, try to support it with material from our readings and indicate the page number, if appropriate, where you found the support.
- (ii) For a "B": a weekly discussion grade of "B" will require you to have all your postings completed by the deadlines, demonstrate good knowledge and understanding of the weeks' readings, responses, and questions for your classmates, and at **least one or more quality postings** per week spread out over the entire session. Your views, opinions, and thoughts must be documented from the class material. For example, if you express an opinion try to support it with material from our readings (a page number will suffice and indicate the page number where you found the support).
- (iii) For a "C": a weekly discussion grade of "C" will require you to have your postings completed by the deadlines, demonstrate average knowledge and understanding of the week's assignments, responses, and questions for your classmates, and **one or more postings that may lack in substance** per week. Your views, opinions, and thoughts must be documented from the class material. For example, if you express an opinion try to support it with material from our readings (a page number will suffice).
- (iv) For an "F": simply do nothing or offer only postings that are strictly your opinion without any support from the class materials.

**NETIQUETTE POLICY:** Online discussion board forums take the place of actual conversations in a traditional classroom; furthermore, discussion boards are a large part of your final grade. Assume that you are in a professional setting and be sure to be mindful of your spelling and grammar when making posts. Like it or not, you are judged by how well you write and speak in the real world. Some students prepare their main posts in Microsoft Word and then copy/paste into the forum. Please remember to read each post made within the course and to meet the requirements for responding to your peers each week. Finally, remember to be respectful within your discussion posts and responses and refrain from belligerent feedback as such behavior is considered unprofessional and unacceptable.

#### **OTHER POLICIES:**

##### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

The University prohibits all forms of academic misconduct. Academic misconduct refers to dishonesty in examinations (cheating), presenting the ideas or the writing of someone else as one's own (plagiarism) or knowingly furnishing false information to the University by forgery, alteration, or misuse of University documents, records, or identification. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following examples: permitting another student to plagiarize or cheat from one's own work, submitting an academic exercise (written work, printing, design, computer program) that has been prepared totally or in part by another, acquiring improper knowledge of the contents of an exam, using unauthorized material during an exam, submitting the same paper in two different courses without knowledge and consent of professors, or submitting a

forged grade change slip or computer tampering. The faculty member has the authority to grant a failing grade in cases of academic misconduct as well as referring the case to Student Life.

### **PLAGIARISM**

You are expected to submit your own work and to identify any portion of work that has been borrowed from others in any form. An ignorant act of plagiarism on final versions and minor projects, such as attributing or citing inadequately, will be considered a failure to master an essential course skill and will result in an F for that assignment. A deliberate act of plagiarism, such as having someone else do your work, or submitting someone else's work as your own (e.g., from the Internet, fraternity file, etc., including homework and in-class exercises), will at least result in an F for that assignment and could result in an F for the course. Submitting work from another course for an assignment in this class is considered plagiarism.

### **E-DEVICE POLICY**

Use of electronic devices including smart watches and cell phones is prohibited during exams or quizzes unless directly allowed by the instructor.

## **COURSE CALENDAR/SCHEDULE:**

### **WEEK ONE - Course Introduction (3/9 – 3/15)**

Syllabus and Expectations

Introduction

1. The Nature of Morality
2. Discussion Board (Welcome and Week 1)

### **WEEK TWO – Consequential Theories of Ethics (3/16 – 3/22)**

Consequentialist Theories of Egoism and Utilitarianism

**Discussion Board 2**

**Assignment 2: Declare Final Paper Topic**

### **WEEK THREE – Non-consequentialist and Virtue Ethics (3/23 – 3/29)**

Non-consequentialist Theories

Virtue Ethics

**Discussion Board 3**

**Midterm Paper due Next Week**

### **WEEK FOUR – Setting up a Moral System – Midterm (3/30 – 4/5)**

Setting up a Moral System

**Discussion Board 4**

**Assignment 4: Midterm Paper Due**

### **WEEK FIVE – The Dynamics of Human Life (4/6 – 4/12)**

The Taking of Human Life

**Discussion Board 5**

**Assignment 5: Writing Prompt 3-4 page paper on Self-Defense**

### **WEEK SIX – Lying, Cheating Stealing and Behavior (4/13 – 4/19)**

Lying, Cheating, Breaking Promises, Stealing

Bioethics

**Discussion Board 6**

### **WEEK SEVEN – Business and Media Ethics (4/20 – 4/26)**

Discrimination and Harassment

Corporate Greed

Social Media

Discussion Board 7

### **WEEK EIGHT – Environmental Ethics (4/27 – 5/2)**

Environmental Ethics

**Assignment 8: Final Project Due Wednesday, by midnight.**