

PHL 400-ON: Senior Interdisciplinary Ethics Seminar

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Course Dates: 5/10–6/26/21
Online on Moodle

Course Description

This course examines ethics at personal, professional, and societal levels. In particular, we will discuss ethics in current events, individual ethical decision-making, ethical choices you might make in a work place, and abortion, affirmative action, and capital punishment. The following are some of the societal ethical questions we will ask: When and why, if ever, is it morally acceptable to have an abortion? When and why, if ever, is affirmative action morally acceptable? When and why, if ever, is it morally acceptable to make capital punishment legal?

Course Objectives

The objective of the course is for you to justify your moral beliefs when solving a moral problem on your own. More specifically, you will learn to create your own moral arguments that answer moral questions. You also will learn to critically evaluate moral arguments created by others. Doing so will help you better understand how you might want to word (or to not word) your own arguments. The questions in the course description will serve as practice. After completing this course, you will be able to create your own moral argument and to evaluate the moral arguments of others on any moral topic. Many of you will already have given some of these questions some thought and come to some conclusions of your own. If so, then you will benefit by assessing your own arguments in light of criticisms made by those who have a different, or even an opposite, view. In other words, you will benefit by clearly and critically thinking about the reasoning behind your arguments. Moreover, this course will provide you with the logical tools that will help you reason better not only about philosophical issues, but about non-philosophical topics as well.

Textbook Information

Electronic readings from

- 1) PDFs from Jeffrey Olen, Julie van Camp, and Vincent Barry, Applying Ethics (10th edition) (Wadsworth, 2011) and
- 2) the internet.

Technology requirements

You need to have a computer with a webcam, microphone, keyboard, mouse, internet connection, and preferable Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox. The reason is that the Explain and Evaluate Assignment and the Final Exam will be online using a proctoring service called Proctortrack and that service requires those things.

Email Policy

All emails to the instructor should be written in a professional manner – this means complete sentences, a greeting and a salutation are all included. Each email should clearly state the purpose of the correspondence and include the student's name, course code, and section number. The subject line should also be succinct but clear with regards to the purpose of the email. Provided these guidelines are followed, the instructor will make every effort to respond to student emails within 24 hours on a weekday or 48 hours on a weekend. All faculty, staff, and students at William Peace University are required to use their William Peace University email account for correspondence related to this course.

Online Policy

All online courses in the School of Professional Studies are fully online and require the use of Moodle. Weekly readings, activities, and assignments will be listed in Moodle. You should expect to spend on average **10-15 hours per week on an individual 3-credit course**. This includes all the readings, posts and assignments as well as being actively engaged in the discussions on the message boards. You should expect to log into the course daily, or at least 4-5 times per week. If you have any problems accessing Moodle please contact Dr. Lori McClaren, Director of Online Learning at 919-508-2367.

Proctoring Policy

All online courses at William Peace University require one proctored exam or activity during the final week of the course, but in this course you will have **two** proctored assignment. The first will be the Explain and Evaluate Assignment, and the second will be the Final Exam. You must use our service called, Proctortrack. For more information on Proctortrack, see:

- Proctortrack FAQs: <http://bit.ly/ProctortrackFAQs>

Assignments and Grading

Assignment	Percentage
-Introductory Post	1
-VIA Survey	2
-VIA Reflection	2
-Critical-thinking Assessment Test (CAT)	2
-Proctortrack Onboarding Quiz	1
-Questions for Analysis (3 total at 2pts each)	6
-Current Events Assignment	4
-Career Assignment	20
-Online Assignment	3
-Explain and Evaluate Assignment	10
-Paper Rough Draft	3
-Paper Final Draft	25
-Final Exam	20
-CAT Reflection	1
Total	100

Graded Assignments Return Policy

All assignments will be graded and returned according to the course calendar below.

Grade scale for all graded materials

A: 100-90

B: 89-80

C: 79-70

D: 69-60

F: 59-0

Class Participation

Participation in this course includes your interactions with your instructor and with your classmates. Each of these interactions must be respectful. For instance, do not write something to someone in a manner that you would not say to him or her in person. Also see the email policy above. Additionally, see Moodle for instructions on how to post a comment/reply or evaluation for a classmate. It is your responsibility to do the assignments by the date indicated in the course calendar.

Late Work

Late policy for Introductory post, VIA survey, VIA reflection, CAT, Proctortrack Onboarding Quiz, Questions for Analysis, Current Event Assignment, and Online Assignment : These will be marked off half of the total points if late. None of these assignments will be accepted if they are over one week late.

Late policy for Career Assignment: If you submit the career assignment late, then it will receive a late penalty for each day late regardless of whether it is submitted during the week or on the weekend.

Late policy for Paper Rough Draft: This will be marked off half of the total points if late. It will not be accepted if it is over three days late.

Late policy for Explain and Evaluate Assignment, Final exam, Paper Final Draft, and CAT reflection: None of these things will be accepted late.

Policy for submitting material via email: If you submit a paper or an assignment to me via email, then please do not assume that I received it unless I email you back with a confirmation.

Incompletes

An Incomplete is appropriate for a student that has been making steady, successful progress in a course and has an unexpected, verifiable mitigating circumstance at the end of the semester which precludes them from completing the last assignment or exam. Poor time management is not an appropriate reason to request an Incomplete. All incomplete grade requests must be approved first by the Instructor, and then by the Director of Online Programs. If the Incomplete is approved the student will have up to six additional weeks to complete the work, as determined by the Instructor. If the student does not complete the final work, the Instructor will assign the appropriate letter grade for work completed or the grade will revert to an "F."

Honor Code

All students in this class will be held to the William Peace University Honor code. The William Peace University Honor code is as follows:

On my honor as a William Peace University student, I will not lie, cheat, or steal; nor will I condone the actions of those who do.

Academic Integrity

William Peace University seeks to develop both the intellect and character of its students. All members of the University are expected to promote a culture of academic integrity, and all students are expected to inform themselves of the University's policies and procedures related to the Honor Code.

All forms of academic misconduct are violations of the University's Honor Code. These include, but are not limited to:

- Cheating: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in academic work or in working with others on academic requirements (tests, assignments, etc.)
- Plagiarism: Representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic work, whether intentional or not
- Falsification: Falsifying or inventing any information or citation in academic work
- Facilitating academic dishonesty: Helping or attempting to help another student to commit an act of academic dishonesty
- Lying: Misrepresenting information that is relevant to the classroom or academic performance

If a faculty member suspects academic misconduct has taken place, then she will complete an Honor Code Violation Report and meet with the student to discuss. A student may accept or decline to accept responsibility. If a student accepts responsibility, then she will be subject to the penalty determined by the faculty member. If a student declines to admit responsibility, then the case will be turned over the Honor Board for adjudication. A complete summary of the Honor Code and Honor Board policy can be found in the *2020-2021 Academic Catalog*.

Penalties for Violations of Academic Integrity

Any violation of academic integrity will result in a 0 for that student's assignment or exam. Any additional violation will result in an "F" for the course.

Disability Services

Disability Services are available to all WPU students who require reasonable accommodations due to any cognitive, physical, or psychological disability, in order to provide equal access to the educational environment. Students will need to be certified with the Disability Services Office and provide appropriate documentation to receive an Academic Accommodation Plan. For more information or to become certified, please contact a counselor in the Disability Services Office, which is located on the 1st Floor of Joyner House. You may also reach Disability Services by sending an email to Disability@peace.edu.

Tutorial Services

Peer tutoring is available for all WPU students free of charge. Support is offered in many subjects, including anthropology, biology, business, chemistry, criminal justice, history, math, political science, psychology, simulation and game design, and writing. Free workshops on study skills and documentation styles like MLA and APA are also offered each semester. Tutorial Services also has many resources on studying, citation, grammar, and other academic topics. Students can sign up for individual appointments using WPUConnect or in person at the Center for Student Success which is located in the 2nd floor of Finch Library. For more information, contact Dr. Deanna Rogers, Director of Academic Support, at drrogers@peace.edu or 919-508-2080.

Course Calendar: You must do the assignments by the date indicated. Also I will let you know if there is a change in the calendar.

Week #1

Friday, May 14:

- 1) Watch this welcome video from Dr. Scott: <https://youtu.be/a1EuOcpDnnQ> (It is only one minute long!)
- 2) In the Introductory Forum, introduce yourself and explain what you plan on doing after you graduate.
- 3) Complete VIA Survey in VIA Survey Assignment.

(When I give you the syllabus before the course starts, I will put all of your course assignments under Week Assignments on Moodle. Check there for each week's assignments.)

Sunday, May 16:

- 1) Post a reflection on your VIA Survey in the VIA Reflection Forum and comment on someone else's post.
- 2) Complete Critical-thinking assessment test (CAT) in CAT Assignment.

Week #2

Friday, May 21:

- 1) Do the reading on abortion,

- 2) Watch and takes notes from this 22 minute YouTube video from me on Warren (<https://youtu.be/Lu2L984Rsmg>), this 6 minute YouTube video from me on Thomson (<https://youtu.be/64oTfvrkr5U>), and this other 18 minute YouTube video from me on Thomson (<https://youtu.be/E9Dqz6pO9hs>)

- 3) Post an answer to a question for analysis for Warren's article or for Thomson's article (you pick) in the Warren or Thomson Forum and comment on someone else's post.

(The questions are at the end of each article. I will give you comments on your answer to a question for analysis upon request.)

- 4) Proctortrack Onboarding Quiz must be completed.

Reading on abortion: pp. 1-7 from the document, "PHL 400 (online) Handbook Part I" and pp. 125-137 and Thomson and Warren, pp. 142-164 from PDF entitled, "PHL 400-Abortion."

(I will grade your Introductory Post, VIA Survey, and VIA Reflection by today.)

Sunday, May 23:

- 1) Current Events Assignment must be posted in Current Events Forum, and respond to someone else's post.

Week #3

Friday, May 28:

- 1) Do the reading on affirmative action,
- 2) Watch and takes notes from this 18 minute YouTube video from me on the diversity argument for affirmative action (<https://youtu.be/fx450ydhds0>) and this 17 minute YouTube video from me on the unfairness argument against affirmative action (<https://youtu.be/gmZuPAV5Q6I>).
- 3) Post an answer to a question for analysis for Wasserstrom's article or for Newton's article (you pick) in the Wasserstrom or Newton Forum and comment on someone else's post.

Reading on affirmative action: pp. 9-11 from the document, "PHL 400 (online) Handbook Part I" and pp. 401-413 and Wasserstrom and Newton, pp. 421-430 from PDF entitled, "PHL 400-Affirmative Action."

(I will grade your Current Events Assignment by today.)

Sunday, May 30:

- 1) For detail on how to do the career assignment, read Career Assignment Requirements (there are two pages; read both!) and Sample Career Assignment and watch this twenty two minute YouTube video from me: https://youtu.be/v_D39fBA_L4
- 2) Complete the Career Assignment.

Week #4**Friday, June 4:**

- 1) For detail about how to complete your Online Assignment, watch this less than 10 minute YouTube video from me: <https://youtu.be/2EJeLUmGS3Q>
- 2) Post your Online Assignment on Moodle. Your argument must be different from any of the ways someone filled in the blanks in an argument from the videos from me, or in the documents, "PHL 400 Handbook" and "PHL 400 Handbook Part II."

(I will grade your career assignment by today.)

Sunday, June 6:

Explain and Evaluate Assignment must be done this week some day between Sunday, May 30 at 12:01am and Sunday, June 6 at 11:55pm.

- 1) For detail about how to complete your Explain and Evaluate Assignment, read PHL 400 Handbook Part II and watch this 18 minute YouTube video from me: <https://youtu.be/08IalwHeMYs> Also, read over the notes you made on the affirmative action and abortion arguments I presented in the videos up to this point. You will be asked to explain and evaluate an argument from one of those videos.
- 2) Complete your Explain and Evaluate Assignment on Moodle **between Sunday, May 30 at 12:01am and Sunday, June 6 at 11:55pm.**

This is a timed assignment. You have 45 minutes to complete this assignment, and you are allowed one attempt only. You must complete this assignment with Proctortrack.

You are on your honor not to use your notes or any other course materials while completing this assignment.

You are also on your honor to not confer with anyone in this section or any other section of this course about this assignment until it is over. Do not discuss the assignment with others while

you are completing it. If you have not completed it, then do not discuss it with others who have completed it. If you have completed it, then do not discuss it with others who have not completed it.

Week #5

Friday, June 11:

- 1) Rough Draft must be posted on Moodle. Your submission must be in Word. Read Paper Requirements, Guide to Writing Philosophy Papers, and Sample Paper. Also, see this 33 YouTube video from me: <https://youtu.be/h6CTrjGPpr8> It provides a lot of detail about how to write the paper and is like a rubric for the paper. Also edit the paper as much as possible.

(I will grade your Online Assignment by today.)

Sunday, June 13:

- 1) Keep refining your paper.

(I will grade your Explain and Evaluate Assignment by today.)

Week #6

Friday, June 18:

- 1) Do the reading on capital punishment.
- 2) Watch and take notes from this 27 minute YouTube video from me on van den Haag (<https://youtu.be/hHaJ3iVWvhE>)
- 3) Post an answer to a question for analysis for van den Haag's article in the Van den Haag Forum **and** comment on someone else's post.

(I will grade your Paper Rough Draft by today.)

Reading on capital punishment: pp. 16-17 from PHL 400 Handbook and pp. 282-292 and van den Haag, pp. 299-307.

Sunday, June 20:

- 1) Paper Final Draft must be posted on Moodle. Your submission must be in Word. Read Paper Requirements, Guide to Writing Philosophy Papers, and Sample Paper. Also, see this 33 minute YouTube video from me: <https://youtu.be/h6CTrjGPpr8> It provides a lot of detail about how to write the paper and is like a rubric for the paper. Also, edit the paper as much as possible.

(By a week from this Monday, I will email you comments and a grade on your paper.)

Week #7

Final Exam must be done this week some day between Sunday, June 20 at 12:01am and Saturday, June 26 at 11:55pm.

- 1) Study for the final exam. Read Final Exam Study Guide and Final Exam Powerpoint Notes. The best way to prepare for the final exam is to use the notes you have been taking from my YouTube videos and the Powerpoint notes from me while answering each of the possible final exam questions in the Final Exam Study Guide. Write out those answers and study them. I recommend flash cards and quizzing yourself.

This is a timed assignment. You have 2 hours to complete this exam, and you are allowed one attempt only. You must complete this assignment with Proctortrack.

You are on your honor not to use your notes or any other course materials while completing this assignment.

You are also on your honor to not confer with anyone in this section or any other section of this course about this exam until after the course is over. Do not discuss the exam with others while you are completing it. If you have not completed it, then do not discuss it with others who have completed it. If you have completed it, then do not discuss it with others who have not completed it.

(By a week from this Thursday, I will grade your final exam. I will also have your final grades posted by then.)

Friday, June 25:

- 1) Post a reflection on your Critical-thinking Assessment Test (CAT) in the CAT Reflection Forum and comment on someone else's post.