



## **Introduction to Ethics PHIL 2306-2**

Delivery: ONLINE

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### **Course Pre-Requisites, Co-Requisites, and Other Restrictions**

This is an introductory level ethics class; therefore, no pre-requisites are necessary for successful completion of this class.

### **Course Description**

The purpose of this class is to provide students with a foundational understanding of the historical and philosophical development of ethical theory along with the paradigms that are typically used within the contemporary culture while also instilling a proper understanding of the vernacular employed by scholars, cultural commentators, politicians, and media alike. During the course we will focus on ethical theories and systems from a Christian worldview by allowing the text of the Christians Scriptures to guide the students in employing ethical systems to create a systematic worldview in which students are capable of applying ethical theories to circumstances found within contemporary culture.

### **Required Textbooks and Course Materials**

1. Your personal copy of the Bible in the English language (Translations ONLY; no paraphrases will be accepted in any assignment).

*\*Suitable translations include the English Standard Version (ESV), the New American Standard Bible (NASB), the Christian Standard Bible (CSB), the New International Version (NIV), and the King James Version (KJV)*

2. Jones, David W., and Daniel R. Heimbach. *An Introduction to Biblical Ethics*. Nashville, TN: B & H Academic, 2013. ISBN: 978-1-4336-6969-9. \$24.99 (226 pages).

## Suggested Course Materials

*These texts will **NOT** be utilized for the assignments necessary for successful completion of the course. This list is for your personal reference as it demonstrates a breadth of scholarship, which should be included in your personal library. The works listed also serve as the bibliography for this course.*

Byrne, James M. *Religion and the Enlightenment: From Descartes to Kant*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997.

Carson, Donald A. *Christ and Culture Revisited*. Grand Rapids, MI ; Cambridge: Eerdmans, 2012.

Forster, Greg. *The Contested Public Square: The Crisis of Christianity and Politics*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2008.

Guinness, Os. *The Global Public Square: Religious Freedom and the Making of a World Safe for Diversity*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2013.

Gushee, David P., Glen Harold Stassen, and Glen Harold Stassen. *Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus in Contemporary Context*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2016.

Hamburger, Philip. *Separation of Church and State*. Cambridge (Mass.): Harvard University Press, 2004.

Maclure, Jocelyn, and Charles Taylor. *Secularism and Freedom of Conscience*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2011.

Neuhaus, Richard John. *The Naked Public Square: Religion and Democracy in America*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2010.

Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ & Culture*. New York: HarperCollins World, 2003.

Nussbaum, Martha Craven. *Liberty of Conscience: In Defense of Americas Tradition of Religious Equality*. New York: BasicBooks, 2008.

Rae, Scott B. *Moral Choices an Introduction to Ethics*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan, 2009.

Smith, Steven D. *The Rise and Decline of American Religious Freedom*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2014.

Williams, Roger, and James Calvin. Davis. *On Religious Liberty: Selections from the Works of Roger Williams*. Cambridge, Mass: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2008.

Wolfe, Christopher, and Richard John. Neuhaus. *The Naked Public Square Reconsidered: Religion and Politics in the Twenty-first Century*. Wilmington, DE: ISI Books, 2009.

### Student Learning Objectives

In the process of completion of PHIL 2306-2, the student will be able to accomplish the following objectives:

1. Know, describe, and apply the vernacular commonly associated with ethical systems, theories, practice, and ethics as an academic enterprise.
2. Appraise, critique and/or defend the major ethical systems presented in this course by applying them to contemporary cultural moments.
3. Analyze and evaluate the major ethical systems in light of the authority of Christian Scriptures and the systematic theological worldview presented in this course.
4. Apply the information gained from this course to create an analytical essay that applies the ethical decision-making rubric to a predefined contemporary cultural moment.

Assignments	(1) Know, describe, and apply the vernacular of ethics	(2) Appraise, critique, and/or defend major ethical systems	(3) Analyze and evaluate the major ethical systems in light of Scripture	(4) Be able to synthesize and evaluate the information to create an analytical essay
Reading	X	X	X	X
Quizzes	X	X	X	
Analytical Essay	X	X		X
Final Exam	X	X	X	
Discussion Boards	X	X	X	X

## Course Philosophy

The philosophy, which governs this class, is informed by the following components:

1. A desire for each student to make a personal and informed commitment to Jesus the Christ as Lord and Savior.
2. To encourage each student to take proactive steps in order to develop a life marked by servant-leadership for the glory of God and the health of the local church by becoming a critical thinker that can logically assess their circumstances to make decisions and take stands based upon good ethical theory and the authority of the Christian Scriptures.
3. To demonstrate an understanding of how the Bible speaks to contemporary issues in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
4. To develop within each student the confidence to question the world around them by becoming an informed critical thinker and to arrive at conclusions for themselves based upon logic, facts and truth.

## Course Topics

This class will be divided along the given chapter divisions of the textbook listed above in this syllabus.

Unit 1:	INTRODUCTION
Unit 2 & 3:	THE NATURE OF THE LAW/ THE RELEVANCY OF THE LAW
Unit 4 & 5:	THE COHERENCY OF THE LAW/ THE STRUCTURE OF THE LAW
Unit 6 & 7:	THE GIVING OF THE LAW/ THE FIRST TABLE OF THE LAW
Unit 8 & 9:	THE SECOND TABLE OF THE LAW/ CONCLUSION ( <i>Final Exam</i> )

## Course Assignments

### 1. QUIZZES (25% of final grade)

These quizzes are meant to keep you on task with the reading. **READING IS NOT BUSY WORK**, it is how scholars continue to learn; keeping up with the reading will also enable you to contribute substantively to the discussion boards and assignments posted to Moodle. These quizzes will be completed by 11:30pm of the day they are assigned.

### 2. DISCUSSION BOARDS (25% of final grade)

Logical and thoughtful interaction is integral to the learning process; particularly in online education. Therefore, students will engage with the content as well as each other through the discussion boards on Moodle. The discussion boards will also serve as the attendance mechanism for the class. In order to gain full credit for a particular discussion board the student must meet the following:

- a. The reply to the instructor's question is a minimum of 200 words and also demonstrates a clear and thoughtful thesis with support from the course content.
- b. The student replies to at least 2 other students with a minimum reply of 100 words to each of the two students. These posts must also be substantive and thoughtful. A post, which is merely comprised of a sentimental response like, "good post," is not sufficient for full credit.

Academic engagement is based upon respect, civility, and a willingness to listen and understand differing opinions; therefore, rude responses or a lack of civility will not be tolerated in the discussion boards and can result in an automatic **F** for the discussion board portion of the final grade. Jacksonville College is proud of its Christian heritage; so, each student will be required to hold to those high standards of civility and academic integrity.

### 3. ANALYTICAL ESSAY (25% of final grade)

This assignment is designed to examine your ability to synthesize, evaluate, and apply the knowledge gained during your study of the content presented during the course. Each student must submit their choice for their contemporary application to the professor in Moodle and are on a first come/first served basis. The instructor will respond in the discussion board assigning each student their approved subject matter. The analytical essay will be at least 5 double-spaced pages in length. Page one will highlight the major issues surrounding the contemporary application chosen. Page two is to develop the thesis of the essay by explaining and outlining the ethical theory that will be used to analyze the chosen subject as well as how they will apply the decision-making rubric. The remaining pages will be devoted to the development of a cogent and systematic argument that will support the student's thesis. **This assignment is due the day of your final.**

#### 4. FINAL EXAM (25% of final grade)

The Final Exam is designed to assess the student's knowledge of the content covered in the SECOND part of the course. This exam will require you to reproduce the knowledge base covered in your reading and subjects discussed in the discussion boards. The exam will also contain a portion that will require you to analyze the data learned and to synthesize a cogent argument for a position; this will be produced in essay format.

### Grading Procedure

Course Grading: *The score you earn is the score you receive. If you are border-line on a grade it WILL NOT be rounded up.*

Quizzes	250 points (25%)
Book Assessment	250 points (25%)
Final Exam	250 points (25%)
<u>Discussion Boards</u>	<u>250 points (25%)</u>
Total:	1,000 points (100%)

LETTER GRADE	POINTS	PERCENTAGE
A	900-1000	90-100%
B	800-899	80-89.9%
C	700-799	70-79.9%
D	600-699	60-69.9%
F	0-599	0-59.9%

Each class day will have assigned sections of the textbook, lecture videos, and assignments that will need to be completed based upon the schedule provided by this syllabus and within the Moodle platform.

## Course Policies

### 1. COMMUNICATION

It is the policy of Jacksonville College that an instructor responds to student email within 24 hours, except for weekends and holidays. However, I try to be as quick as I can in responding to your emails. DO NOT try to message me through Moodle; the best way to contact me is through my official Jacksonville College email.

### 2. ABSENCES

Participation in the class through Moodle is a mandatory part of the online learning experience. Any week, in which a student fails to interact with the class, i.e. discussion boards, the student will be marked “absent” for the week. Students who fail to demonstrate satisfactory interaction with the online environment will be reported to the Academic Dean.

### 3. LATE WORK

Late work will not be accepted unless a satisfactory reason for the tardiness of the assignment can be produced with substantiating documentation. These reasons include: extreme illness requiring a doctor’s care, a death in the immediate family, etc. In the job place, ministry or otherwise, you will be required to substantiate your absence; the same is true in this class. In order for an assignment to be accepted after the due date, the student must produce documentation substantiating their claim.

### 4. COURSE CHANGES

The instructor reserves all rights to change or amend the course or syllabus at anytime throughout the course based upon the needs of the institution, the class, or the progress of the students in the class. Any changes will be promptly placed in the “course announcement” section of Moodle as well as emails to each student enrolled in the course.

### 5. FEEDBACK

The online classroom is much different from the face-to-face courses of traditional education. The vast majority of the instructor’s time will be spent on grading your assignments and providing prompt feedback to each student. The feedback is not only designed to provide reasoning for the grading but also to foster learning through the process of grading. Grades are not just for assessment; they will be leveraged as another learning tool for the student to use in their online education.

### 6. MOTIVATION

**This is NOT a self-paced class.** Please pay attention to the assignment and due dates in the Moodle course. The instructor will not be there to prompt you to read or engage with the class; online education demands a certain amount of self-sufficiency in order to be successful. One tip to success in online education is to devote specific and regular times during the week to the completion of your assignments. For some that is early in the morning while for others it is late in the evening. Find the right time for you so you can devote yourself to your studies instead of trying to cram all your studying into an evening.

## **Online Student Support Services**

Support services and resources are available to all online students and may help you succeed in this course. Find out what services are available and how to access them by visiting our [Online Student Support Services](#) page.

## **Library Course on Moodle**

The Norman Library provides many online resources to students. To access these resources, or to request assistance with using these resources, you may visit the Library course on Moodle. Just sign into Moodle and then in the navigation block on the left side of the page click the current term and then the link to the Library course.

## **Students with Disabilities**

### **504 Accommodations Statement**

Jacksonville College complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This compliance is pertaining to the provision of reasonable accommodations for students with a disability. In accordance with Section 504 and ADA guidelines, Jacksonville College strives to provide reasonable accommodations to students who request and require them. The Federal regulations that deal with implementing Section 504 and the ADA establish that reasonable and appropriate academic accommodations must be provided to students with disabilities to allow equal access to educational opportunities. While providing accommodation, however, institutions of higher education are not required to lower academic standards or compromise the integrity of the school, department, or program. The Office of Disability Services recommends accommodations for students with disabilities in compliance with these Federal and State mandates. If you believe that you have a disability requiring accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services ([counselor.504@jacksonville-college.edu](mailto:counselor.504@jacksonville-college.edu); 903-586-2518 ext. 7103).



## Academic Honesty

### Jacksonville College Honor Code

Each person of the Jacksonville College community is expected to uphold The Honor Code. The purpose of the Honor Code is to establish and preserve an environment of honor and integrity in the academic community. A deep faith in God is the foundation of Jacksonville College and should influence the personal and scholarly conduct of every student. Therefore, “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men” Colossians 3:23 (NKJV).

A violation of the Honor Code consists of but is not limited to the following defined actions:

#### DEFINITIONS:

A. **Lying:** making a false statement made with the deliberate intent to deceive. Lying includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Misrepresenting yourself by having another individual substitute for you in the taking of a quiz or test.
2. Falsifying college documents including alteration or forgery. (Disciplinary consequences for this violation are determined by the College administration.)

3. Providing false information during the course of an investigation of an alleged violation of the JC Honor Code or the Student Code of Conduct.

B. **Stealing:** taking the property of another, including College property, without permission or right.

C. **Cheating:** dishonest behavior including but not limited to the following acts:

1. **Plagiarism:** the act of taking or closely imitating another individual’s thoughts or words and using them as your own, whether by paraphrase or direct quotation, without giving credit through proper documentation; the submission of an assignment written by another student, commercial organization, or anyone other than the student.
2. **Unauthorized assistance or collaboration:** students working together on any tests, quizzes, assignments or exams without the instructor’s permission.
3. **Use of Unauthorized Materials:** using textbooks, cell phones, laptops, calculators, or other electronic devices for tests, quizzes, or assignments without instructor’s permission.
4. **Unauthorized Dual Submission of Previous Academic Work:** using any work from a previous course or another course for an assignment unless a student has received prior permission from an instructor.
5. **Other Academic Misconduct:** including, but is not limited to, stealing quizzes or exams, altering academic records including grades, sabotaging the work of another student, or unauthorized use of another student’s electronic devices; intentionally reporting a false violation of academic integrity or offering a bribe to any College member in exchange for special consideration or favors.

#### DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES of ACADEMIC VIOLATIONS:

- A. **A. FIRST OFFENSE:** The student will be given a zero or “F” on the test, exam, course paper, or class assignment.
- B. **B. SECOND OFFENSE:** (whether in same class or another class) The student will receive an “F” in the course in which the second offense occurred.
- C. **C. THIRD OFFENSE:** (whether in the same class or another class) The student is subject to being withdrawn from the College by the Academic Dean

#### **REPORTING ACADEMIC VIOLATIONS:**

- A. A. The instructor and student will sign the Academic Violation Report Form. The Instructor will send copies of the Report Form to the Academic Dean and the Dean of Students.
- B. B. The Dean of Students may talk with the student regarding the academic violation. (See Student Handbook pp. 20 and 23.)
- C. C. The instructor will keep the Academic Violation Report Form and a copy of the work in question as long as the student attends Jacksonville College.
- D. D. For a second offense, the Academic Dean will notify the student regarding an “F” in the course in which the second and subsequent violation occurred.
- E. E. “For a third offense, the Academic Dean will notify the student of their due process in the withdrawal procedures from the College.”

#### **APPEALS:**

The student may refer to the “Student Grievance Procedure” section in the Course Catalog.

#### **JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE HONOR CODE STUDENT PLEDGE:**

As a student of Jacksonville College, I agree to abide by the Honor Code. I will neither lie, steal, cheat, nor tolerate this behavior in others. I will not plagiarize, use unauthorized materials, or give or receive unauthorized help on assignments, papers, or exams whether online or in the classroom. The work that I submit will be my work only and not the work of others. I pledge to report any suspected dishonesty or violation of the Honor Code to the instructor or the Dean of Students.

Having read and understood the contents and purpose of this document, my signature indicates my commitment to abide by the Jacksonville College Honor Code.

## Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitoring Service

This course requires the use of the Respondus lockdown browser and monitoring service for one or more exams. In order to complete these exams you will need to have access to a reliable computer that meets the following requirements:

### Operating Systems

Windows: 10 8, 7

Mac: OS X 10.10 or higher

iOS: 7.0+ (iPad only)

**NOTE: Chrome OS is NOT SUPPORTED**

### Memory

Windows: 2 GB RAM

Mac: 512 MB RAM

### Hard Disk Space

Windows: 75 MB of free hard disk space

Mac: 3 MB of free hard disk space

Web camera (internal or external) & microphone

A broadband Internet connection

If you need help determining whether your computer meets the above requirements, please email [help@jacksonville-college.edu](mailto:help@jacksonville-college.edu)

If you experience any technical problems with the LockDown browser, submit a trouble ticket to the following website:

<http://support.respondus.com/support/index.php?/Default/Tickets/Submit/RenderForm/2>

This video explains how Lockdown browser and monitor work: [Overview for Students](#)

## Technical Support

If you experience any technical problems with your MOODLE account, Jagmail, or other technology needs, you may send an email to [help@jacksonville-college.edu](mailto:help@jacksonville-college.edu); then alert your instructor to the issue.