

Updated: 7/23/2013

Master Syllabus

PHIL 1111 Introduction to Ethics

Instructor:

Office/Office Hours:

Phone:

Email:

Classroom:

Course Description: An introduction to the study of moral reasoning and judgment. Topics include the meaning and importance of individual and social morality in human life and the major systems of ethical theory as they apply to the study of moral problems such as sexual morality, pornography, abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, and job discrimination. Prerequisites: Completion of all Learning Support competencies for reading and writing. PHIL 1111 meets the General Education requirement for Humanities. This course is part of the General Education core.

Course Credits/Class Hours: 3/3 (Honors Option Offered)

Course Objectives: Once students successfully complete this course, they should be able to:

1	Identify the most crucial philosophical issues characterizing ethical debates.
2	Explain the evolution of ancient ethics to present.
3	Identify major figures of Western philosophy of ethics.
4	Demonstrate an understanding of the historical context underlying the development of ethical thought.

Required Text and Materials: Boss, *Analyzing Moral Issues*, 6th Ed., McGraw-Hill, 2013 ISBN: 978-0-07-803844-0
Price: \$141.90 (New) Rental: \$78.05

Various handouts and readings available via NS Online.

Americans with Disabilities Act: NSCC complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you would like to request any accommodation for this course, please contact the Coordinator of Disabilities at 615.353.3721.

Zero tolerance policy for Disruptive conduct in the classroom

- The instructor has primary responsibility for control over classroom behavior and maintenance of academic integrity.
- He/she can order temporary removal or exclusion from the classroom of any student engaged in disruptive conduct or conduct which violates the general rules and regulations of the College.
- Disruptive behavior in the classroom that obstructs or disrupts the learning environment is defined as:
 - **Offensive language;**
 - **Harassment of students or professors;**
 - **Repeated outbursts from a student which disrupt the flow of instruction or prevent concentration on the subject taught;**
 - **Failure to cooperate in maintaining classroom decorum; and**
 - **Continued use of any electronic or other noise or light emitting device which disturbs others: beepers, cell phones, palm pilots, lap-top computers, games, etc.**
- Students who are removed from class for disruptive behavior will not be allowed to return until the issue is resolved and may be administratively withdrawn from the course or the college.

Academic Integrity Statement

- Students guilty of academic dishonesty, either directly or indirectly through participation or assistance, are responsible to the instructor of the class. Academic dishonesty is defined as but not limited to plagiarism, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, and forging documentation.
- Possible disciplinary sanctions may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures as a result of academic misconduct.
- **The instructor has the authority to assign an "F" or "zero" for the exercise or examination, or to assign an "F" for the course.**

Grading Criteria: Each instructor will provide students with a rubric for assessment of work and stated grading standards for the course.

Grading Scale: Each instructor will provide students with letter grades and/or points.

Attendance and Tardiness Policies:

Each instructor will provide information regarding his/her attendance policy. Failure to attend class will result in a final course grade of "FA" or "FN" (see explanation below), depending on the individual instructor's course policy.

FA= failure, attendance-related (unofficial withdrawal) Last recorded date of attendance required.

FN= failure, never attended class (unofficial withdrawal)

D2L/NSOnline and MyNSCC e-mail:

It is the student's responsibility to check D2L/NSOnline and MyNSCC e-mail on a regular basis. These are the official communication channels between the college and students. Students are responsible for the information communicated through those channels. D2L/NSOnline contains specific course information and MyNSCC contains information important for other purposes.

Academic Early Warning System:

Nashville State Community College has implemented an Early Warning System to notify students via e-mail about academic problems such as poor classroom attendance, poor performance on assignments/tests, poor communication skills, late/missing assignments, and/or lack of classroom participation. *Please note that Early Warning Alerts do not affect a student's academic standing.*

Late Work Policy: Each instructor will provide students with policy.

Plagiarism/Cheating Policy: At the discretion of the instructor, students who cheat or steal work from another source will either (1) be dismissed from class with a grade of "F" or (2) receive a grade of "F" for the assignment/test. Some examples of plagiarism and cheating are: using undocumented sources, copying work verbatim from the Internet, using someone else's work, recycling work from another class, using unauthorized notes during an exam, and/or looking on a classmate's test/paper. Instructors may further define honor code violations on the syllabus. Many instructors use Turnitin, a software program that detects and documents plagiarized work. **Students charged with Academic Misconduct will receive written notice in person or via NSCC email or regular mail. Students have five working days to appeal the sanction to the Dean for Student Services.**

Testing, Papers, Course Work: Each instructor will provide students with course information.

Sample Course Schedule:

Week	Assignment
Week 1	ORGANIZATIONAL DISCUSSION
	INTRODUCTION: What is philosophy?
	Read Bertrand Russell's article entitled "The Value of Philosophy"
Week 2	AVOIDING LOGICAL FALLACIES
	Discussion about how to write philosophy paper
Week 3	ABORTION
	<i>The Miracle of Life</i> documentary
	Read <i>Roe vs. Wade</i> Decision
	"An Absolute Value in History" by John T. Noonan
	"Why Abortion is Immoral" by Don Marquis
	"A Defense of Abortion," by Judith Jarvis Thompson
Week 4	SOPHIST: THE BIRTH OF PHILOSOPHICAL ETHICS—Read the handout (WEB)
	SOPHISTS—"Relativism in Ethics,"
	SOPHISTS—Ethics according to Protagoras and Antiphon
Week 5	AT THE END OF LIFE
	"Is There a Duty to Die?"
	EUTHANASIA
	"The Wrongfulness of Euthanasia" by Gay Williams
	"Feminist Critique of Physician- Assisted Suicide" by Susan M. Wolf
Week 6	"Active and Passive Euthanasia" by James Rachels
	"The Case for Euthanasia" by Margaret Pabst Battin
	SOCRATES—Read Plato's <i>Apology</i>
	SOCRATES—A Religious Philosopher Chaerophon's message from Apollo
	SOCRATES—Socratic Epistemology The power of dialectic
Week 7	SOCRATES—In Soul We Trust
	SOCRATES—Ethics "A good life is equivalent to honorable and just life."
	SOCRATES—Political conservatism of Socrates
Week 8	SEXUAL INTIMACY
	"Is Homosexuality Bad Sexuality?" by Michael Ruse, pp. 378-385
	"Law, Morality, and Sexual Orientation" by John M. Finnis
Week 9	<i>For Better or Worse</i> documentary (Film)
	"The Case for Gay Marriage" Michael Nava and Robert Davidoff
	"Is Adultery Immoral"
Week 10	"Better Sex"
	PLATO—Read Plato's <i>Republic</i> , Books VI and VII
	PLATO—Theory of Knowledge Reason versus Opinion
	PLATO—Theory of Forms

Week	Assignment
Week 11	PLATO—The Allegory of the Cave
	PLATO—Moral Theory: Against Relativism
	PLATO—Political Theory The Utopian Republic
Week 12	DEATH PENALTY
	<i>The Death Penalty on Trial</i> documentary
	"The Ultimate Punishment A Defense of Capital Punishment"
	"Capital Punishment"
Week 13	JEREMY BENTHAM: IN PLEASURE WE TRUST
Week 14	DRUGS
	"Against the Legalization of Drugs"
	<i>Losing the War on Drugs</i> documentary
	"A Moral Right to Use Drugs"
Week 15	ARISTOTLE MODERATION AND HAPPINESS— Read the handout
	ARISTOTLE—Aristotle versus Plato
	ARISTOTLE—Theory of knowledge
Week 16	ARISTOTLE—Critique of the Platonic Forms
	ARISTOTLE—Ethics Keeping Things in Balance
	ARISTOTLE—Evaluation and significance of Aristotelian ethics
	CLONING
	<i>Should We Clone Ourselves?</i> Documentary
	"The Wisdom of Repugnance: Why Should We Ban Genetic Cloning of Humans?"
	"The Question of Human Cloning,"