

PHIL200

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

Course Summary

Course : PHIL200 **Title :** Introduction to Ethics

Length of Course : 8

Prerequisites : N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

Description

Course Description: This course will examine the field of ethics and provide the tools for ethical decision-making. Students will analyze texts for meaning, apply theories learned to various areas of moral concern, such as war, euthanasia, divorce, and poverty. The course will also provide an overview of how philosophers have thought about moral problems and some of the solutions they have proposed. Students will develop the ability to think about moral problems in a clear and logically consistent manner.

Course Scope:

This class covers the fundamental concepts and theories of morals, the history and development of ethical theory, is a systematic study of right and wrong, good and evil with a critical application of ethical theory to contemporary social problems.

This course is intended to introduce students to ethical philosophy. The course is divided into eight weekly segments and is designed to give students a broad overview of ethical theory and moral philosophic practice. The terms “ethics” and “moral philosophy” are used interchangeably. Although the Greek word ethos and the Latin word moralis both have a meaning of “customary practices,” ethical philosophy seeks to discover the best practices for becoming a good human being.

This course encourages students to think deeply about current ethical issues and dilemmas and to apply ethical theory and reasoning in approaching moral questions. The general learning objectives of the course are to introduce students to the historical development of the major schools of ethical theorizing. They will be expected to understand and evaluate how best to apply these theories to practical and current ethical questions and issues. Students will demonstrate their ability to analyze and think critically in writing, by arguing and defending positions on assigned ethical topics.

Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- Examine the major ethical theories in the history of ethical and moral philosophy.
- Analyze ethical arguments and they are put forward by philosophers in key ethical texts.
- Apply ethical theories and critical thinking to current ethical issues and topics such as the following: abortion, euthanasia, poverty, terrorism, affirmative action, animal rights, and civil disobedience.
- Interpret and remember the meaning of specific ethical terminology and to use ethical terms appropriately.

- Develop the ability to apply ethical thinking in personal real life situations
 - Create a framework to develop one's own ethical and moral philosophy.
 - Analyze your own understanding of the concept of rationality and the views on the debates surrounding it.
 - Articulate and defend this understanding with rigor and clarity.
 - Skillfully interpret philosophical texts, critical reasoning, and written and oral expression.
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Outline

Week 1:

Topic

- Moral Judgment
- Normative Ethics
- Emotivism

Learning Objectives

- Examine a major ethical theory in the history of ethical and moral philosophy.
- Analyze an ethical argument and they are put forward by a philosopher in a key ethical text.
- Interpret and remember the meaning of specific ethical terminology and to use ethical terms appropriately.

Readings

Ethics, An Online Textbook Stephen O' Sullivan and Philip A. Pecorino

- [Chapter 1: Introduction](#)

Introduction to Ethical Studies Lee Archie and John G. Archie

- [Chapter 6: G.E. Moore](#)

Assignment

Introduction Forum

Week 2:

Topic

- The Good
- Justice
- Ethics

Learning Objectives

- Examine a major ethical theory in the history of ethical and moral philosophy.
- Analyze an ethical argument and they are put forward by a philosopher in a key ethical text.
- Interpret and remember the meaning of specific ethical terminology and to use ethical terms appropriately.

Readings

Ethics, An Online Textbook Stephen O' Sullivan and Philip A. Pecorino

- [Chapter 3: Relativism](#)
- [Chapter 4: Ethical Theories](#)

Introduction to Ethical Studies Lee Archie and John G. Archie [Chapter 23: "The Ring of Gyges" by Plato](#)

Assignment

Week 2 Forum

Short-Essay Assignment 1

Week 3:

Topic

- Virtue
- Cause
- Happiness

Learning Objectives

- Examine a major ethical theory in the history of ethical and moral philosophy.
- Analyze an ethical argument and they are put forward by a philosopher in a key ethical text.
- Interpret and remember the meaning of specific ethical terminology and to use ethical terms appropriately.

Readings

Ethics, An Online Textbook Stephen O' Sullivan and Philip A. Pecorino

- [Chapter 2: Moral Developments, Mores and Laws](#)

Introduction to Ethical Studies Lee Archie and John G. Archie

- [Chapter 22: "What is the Life of Excellence?" by Aristotle](#)

Assignment

Week 3 Forum

Week 4:

Topic

- Utility
- Pleasure
- Principles

Learning Objectives

- Examine a major ethical theory in the history of ethical and moral philosophy.
- Analyze an ethical argument and they are put forward by a philosopher in a key ethical text.
- Interpret and remember the meaning of specific ethical terminology and to use ethical terms appropriately.

Readings

Ethics, An Online Textbook Stephen O' Sullivan and Philip A.

[Pecorino Chapter 5: Theological Theories: Egoism](#)

[Chapter 6: Theological Theories: Utilitarianism*](#)

*Please note: Instead of the first link in Chapter 6, Sections 1 & 2, please refer to <http://www.mccaughan.org.uk/g/essays/utility.html>.

Additionally, in Chapter 6, Section 1, under Rule Utilitarianism, instead of <http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/r/ruleutil.htm> refer to <http://www.iep.utm.edu/ethics/#SSH2c.i>.

The Original Text: On Utilitarianism by John Stuart Mill can be found at <http://books.google.com/books?id=nHERAAAAYAAJ&pg=PP11#v=onepage&q&f=false>.

The link <http://ethics.acusd.edu/utilitarianism.html> has moved to <http://ethics.sandiego.edu/theories/Utilitarianism/index.asp>.

Also, the quiz in Chapter 6, Section 2 has been moved to <http://www.public.asu.edu/~dportmor/hau.htm>.

Introduction to Ethical Studies Lee Archie and John G. Archie

- [Chapter 25: "Happiness Is the Greatest Good" by Jeremy Bentham](#)
- [Chapter 10: "A Science of Human Nature" by John Stuart Mill](#)
- [Chapter 21: "Egoism Is Mistaken" by David Hume](#)

Assignment

Week 4 Forum

Short-Essay Assignment 2

Week 5:

Topic

- Duty
- Maxim
- Means and End

Learning Objectives

- Apply ethical theories and critical thinking to current ethical issues.
- Apply ethical thinking in personal real life situations.
- Develop one's own ethical and moral philosophy.

Readings

Ethics, An Online Textbook Stephen O' Sullivan and Philip A. Pecorino

- [Chapter 8: Kantian Theory: The Categorical Imperative](#)
- [Chapter 9: Rawl's Theory: Justice as Fairness](#)

Introduction to Ethical Studies Lee Archie and John G. Archie

- [Chapter 16: "Act in Accordance with Universal Law" by Immanuel Kant](#)

Assignment

Week 5 Forum

Week 6:

Topic

- Existentialism
- Transvaluation of Values
- The Higher Man

Learning Objectives

- Apply ethical theories and critical thinking to current ethical issues.
- Apply ethical thinking in personal real life situations.
- Develop one's own ethical and moral philosophy.

Readings

Ethics, An Online Textbook Stephen O' Sullivan and Philip A. Pecorino

- [Chapter 11: Existentialism](#)

Introduction to Ethical Studies Lee Archie and John G. Archie

- [Chapter 26: "Slave and Master Morality" by Friedrich Nietzsche](#)

Assignment

Week 6 Forum

Short-Essay Assignment 3

Week 7:

Topic

- Will to Believe
- Self-Development

Learning Objectives

- Apply ethical theories and critical thinking to current ethical issues.
- Apply ethical thinking in personal real life situations.
- Develop one's own ethical and moral philosophy.

Readings

Ethics, An Online Textbook Stephen O' Sullivan and Philip A. Pecorino

- [Chapter 7: Deontological Theories: Natural Law](#)
- [Chapter 12: Feminism*](#)

*Note: In the Chapter 12, Section 2 reading, please omit the CARE ETHICS AS A HEALTH CARE ETHIC link and refer to <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-ethics/> instead.

Introduction to Ethical Studies Lee Archie and John G. Archie

- [Chapter 13: "The Will to Believe" by William James](#)
- [Chapter 27: "What Makes a Life Significant" by William James](#)

Assignment

Week 7 Forum

Week 8:

Topic

- Psychological and Ethical Relativism
- Cultural Anthropology
- Emotional Basis for Ethics

Learning Objectives

- Apply ethical theories and critical thinking to current ethical issues.
- Apply ethical thinking in personal real life situations.
- Develop one's own ethical and moral philosophy.

Readings

Ethics, An Online Textbook Stephen O' Sullivan and Philip A. Pecorino

- [Chapter 13: Relativism Reconsidered: Conclusion](#)

Introduction to Ethical Studies Lee Archie and John G. Archie

- [Chapter 5: "Ethics Are Relative" by Edward Westermarck](#)

Assignment

Week 8 Forum

Applying Ethical Theories Presentation

Evaluation

Forum Posts

Please join the forums each week during the course. Forums are a critical component of Ethics. Your weekly Forum requirement includes an initial response to a question related to your choice of either one of 2 topics discussed that week. You will post an initial response consisting of a minimum of **250** words, and a reply to another learner's post that is a minimum of **100** words. Your reply should be addressed to a learner who has responded to the alternate topic for the week.

Assignments

This course requires you to complete a total of 3 Short-Essay Assignments which are due in Weeks 2, 4, and 6. You will also complete an Applying Ethical Theories Presentation due in Week 8. Instructions for each Short-Essay Assignment and the Applying Ethical Theories Assignment can be found within the Assignments area of the course.

I suggest not waiting until the week of to begin working on your assignments, but to take full advantage of the time in between when they are due. Doing this will ensure preparation and allow time to ask for clarification for anything you may not understand. Please message me with any questions you may have concerning the Essay assignments.

Each assignment is worth a significant percentage of your grade so it's important that you spend an adequate amount of time answering them thoroughly. Each assignment is due by 11:55 p.m., ET, Sunday of the week assigned.

Grading:

Name	Grade %
Forums	40.00 %
Week 1 Forum	5.00 %
Week 2 Forum	5.00 %
Week 3 Forum	5.00 %
Week 4 Forum	5.00 %
Week 5 Forum	5.00 %
Week 6 Forum	5.00 %
Week 7 Forum	5.00 %
Week 8 Forum	5.00 %
Short-Essay Assignments	45.00 %
Week 2 - Short-Essay Assignment 1	15.00 %
Week 4 - Short-Essay Assignment 2	15.00 %
Week 6 - Short-Essay Assignment 3	15.00 %
Presentation	15.00 %
Week 8 - Applying Ethical Theories Presentation	15.00 %

Materials

Book Title: Various resources from the Open Web are used. Please visit <http://apus.libguides.com/er.php> to locate the course eReserve.

Author: N/A

Publication Info: N/A

ISBN: N/A

Ethics, An Online Textbook

Stephen O' Sullivan and Philip A. Pecorino

URL: <http://www2.sunysuffolk.edu/pecorip/SCCCWEB/ETEXTS/ETHICS/>*

*Please note, should you come across broken links to supplemental materials in this text, please contact me immediately, and I will be happy to provide you with more resources for your understanding.

Introduction to Ethical Studies

Lee Archie and John G. Archie

URL: <http://philosophy.lander.edu/ethics/ethicsbook/book1.html>

PDF: <http://philosophy.lander.edu/ethics/ethicsbook.pdf>

If you encounter difficulties viewing the e-book, please visit the [HELP/FAQs](#) section of the Online Library. If you still have questions, please contact librarian@apus.edu for assistance.

Websites

In addition to the required course texts the following public domain Websites are useful. Please abide by the university's academic honesty policy when using Internet sources as well. Note web site addresses are subject to change.

(The IEP is sometimes good and sometimes not. The SEP is of a high quality yet it can be a bit confusing. So in all cases, proceed with caution.)

Course Guidelines

Citation and Reference Style

- Students will follow MLA format as the sole citation and reference style used in written assignments submitted as part of coursework to the Humanities Department.
- Please note that no formal citation style is graded on forum assignments in the School of Arts & Humanities—only attribution of sources (please see details regarding forum communication below).

Tutoring

- [Tutor.com](http://www.tutor.com) offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

Late Assignments

School of Arts & Humanities Late Policy

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution.

Work posted or submitted after the assignment due date will be reduced by 10% of the potential total score possible for each day late up to a total of five days, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments. ***Beginning on the sixth day late through the end of the course, late work, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments, will be accepted with a grade reduction of 50% of the potential total score earned.***

Turn It In

Assignments are automatically submitted to Turnitin.com within the course. Turnitin.com will analyze an assignment submission and report a similarity score. Your assignment submission is automatically processed through the assignments area of the course when you submit your work.

Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com or Scribd. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

Submission Guidelines

- Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc). See the assignment instructions for details. In general,

standard file types such as those associated with Microsoft Office are preferred, unless otherwise specified.

- It is the student's responsibility to ensure the all submitted work can be accessed and opened by the instructor.

Disclaimer Statement

- Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of a particular group or class.

Communicating on the Forum

- Forums are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting day/time after which the instructor will grade and provide feedback, it is not sufficient to wait until the last day to contribute your comments/questions on the forum. The purpose of the forums is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.
- "Substantive" means comments that contribute something new and important to the discussion. Thus a message that simply says "I agree" is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question, provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, etc.
- As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each individual's own opinion. Hateful and hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.
- Students must post a response to the weekly forums prompt and post the required number of replies to other students – refer to the grading rubric and/or forum instructions for specific expectations on number of replies and word count requirements.
- The main response to the forum is due mid-week – refer to the grading rubric and/or forum instructions for specific expectations. Late main response posts to a forum may not be accepted without prior instructor approval.
- Replies must be posted in the week due and replies after the end of the each week may not be graded.

Quizzes and Exams

- Quizzes and exams may consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short essay questions. Each quiz/exam is accessible only once. Once a quiz/exam is accessed, you will not be able to access it again if you disconnect. Therefore, allocate time to complete your quiz. Weekly quizzes must be submitted by midnight Eastern Time, Day 7 of the assigned week. Late quizzes or exams will not be accepted without prior instructor approval.

University Policies

[Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

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