

PELLISSIPPI STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MASTER SYLLABUS

**INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS
PHIL 2400**

Class Hours: 3.0

Credit Hours: 3.0

Laboratory Hours: 0.0

Revised: Spring 2011

Catalog Course Description:

An introduction to moral theory and/or a consideration of a variety of moral problems, including abortion, suicide and euthanasia, capital punishment, women's issues, sex and AIDS, animals and the environment and war.

Entry Level Standards:

Students must be able to read and write at a college level. Students must also be responsible enough to prepare for, attend, and participate in class regularly.

Prerequisites:

None

Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:

Boonin, David and Oddie, Graham, *What's Wrong?*, 2nd ed., Oxford ISBN 9780195337808.

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

Week	Topic
1	Ethics and Ethical Reasoning
2	Ethical Relativism, ethical egoism
3	Aristotle, natural law, natural rights, virtue ethics
4	Utilitarianism
5	Deontology (Kant)
6	Violence, Terrorism, & War
7	Euthanasia
8	Abortion
9	Commercial surrogacy
10	Affirmative action

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| 11 | Economic Justice |
| 12 | Legal Punishment |
| 13 | Climate change |
| 14 | World famine |
| 15 | Final Exam |

II. Course Goals*:

The course will

- A. Extend the students' understanding of moral philosophy and of the main moral theories in Western thought. I.7, II.1, II.4, II.6, III.2
- B. Expand the students' awareness of the major moral issues of our time. I.7, II.4, II.6
- C. Enhance the students' ability to think about moral issues in a critical and open minded way. I.7, II.1, II.4, II.6, III.2
- D. Foster the students' ability to apply the theories studied to the issues considered. I.2, I.7, II.6, III.2
- E. Develop the students' ability to articulate views about these and other moral/philosophical issues. I.2, I.5, I.7, II.6

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference the university parallel program General Education Goals.

III. Expected Student Learning Outcomes*:

Students will be able to:

- 1. Sketch the central features of the most widely studied moral theories. A
- 2. Compare/contrast commonly used normative predicates. B, C
- 3. Define basic logical terms. C
- 4. Explain the role of argumentation in philosophy/moral philosophy. A, B, C, D, E
- 5. Evaluate the most widely studied moral theories. A, C, E
- 6. Describe the facts related to violence, terrorism, war, euthanasia, abortion, commercial surrogacy, affirmative action, economic justice, legal punishment, climate change, and world famine, as moral issues. B, C, E
- 7. Analyze the moral issues relevant to violence, terrorism, war, euthanasia, abortion, commercial surrogacy, affirmative action, economic justice, legal punishment, climate change, and world famine, as moral issues. A, B, C, D, E
- 8. Evaluate the morality of violence, terrorism, war, euthanasia, abortion, commercial surrogacy, affirmative action, economic justice, legal punishment, climate change, and world famine, from utilitarian, deontological, and other relevant perspectives. A, B, C, D, E
- 9. Write papers applying the principles of moral analysis both to problems directly discussed in

class and to those not directly discussed in class. A, B, C, D, E

*Letters after performance expectations reference the course objectives listed above.

IV. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures:

The grade will be based entirely upon quizzes, essay exams, and short creative papers. The number of quizzes, exams, etc., can vary from section to section.

B. Laboratory Expectations:

N/A

C. Field Work:

N/A

D. Other Evaluation Methods:

N/A

E. Grading Scale:

100-90 = A
89-85 = B+
84-80 = B
79-75 = C+
74-70 = C
69-60 = D
59-00 = F

V. Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

Pellissippi State expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses (excluding distance learning courses) must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course. Individual departments/programs/disciplines, with the approval of the vice president of Academic Affairs, may have requirements that are more stringent. In very specific circumstances, an appeal of the policy may be addressed to the head of the department in which the course was taken. If further action is warranted, the appeal may be addressed to the vice president of Academic Affairs.

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices:

- Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments.
- Plagiarism, including but not limited to paraphrasing, summarizing, or directly quoting published or unpublished work of another person, including online or computerized services, without proper documentation of the original source.
- Purchasing or otherwise obtaining prewritten essays, research papers, or materials prepared by

another person or agency that sells term papers or other academic materials to be presented as one's own work.

- Taking an exam for another student.
- Providing others with information and/or answers regarding exams, quizzes, homework or other classroom assignments unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.
- Any of the above occurring within the Web or distance learning environment.

C. Accommodations for disabilities:

Students who need accommodations because of a disability, have emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated should inform the instructor immediately, privately after class or in her or his office. Students must present a current accommodation plan from a staff member in Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD) in order to receive accommodations in this course. Services for Students with Disabilities may be contacted by going to Goins 127, 132, 134, 135, 131 or by phone: 539-7153 or TTY 694-6429. More information is available at <http://www.pstcc.edu/sswd/>.