



Wayne County Community College District

COURSE SYLLABUS

PHL 221 Ethics

CREDIT HOURS: 3.00

CONTACT HOURS: 45.00

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a survey of ethical theories which have characterized human beings, with practical applications to current problems in human values.

PREREQUISITES: *NONE*

EXPECTED COMPETENCIES:

After completing this course, the student will be able to:

1. Develop a consistent & comprehension system of ethics in relating to the world
 - 1.1. Discuss the need to understand ethical issues, and act in a moral manner within the framework of a logically coherent and consistent ethical system that is comprehensive in nature
 - 1.2. Students will be able to analyze ethical & metaethical theories that claim that no such moral system can be justifiable: these theories include: Relativism, Emotivism, G.E. Moore's concept of the Naturalistic Fallacy, Westermarck's claims that no ethical system is justifiable, and that ethical disputes are really disguised factual disagreements
 - 1.3. On the basis of this analysis, students will be able to critically evaluate these theories and their claims
2. The good
 - 2.1. Students will be able to contrast intrinsic & extrinsic good as they apply to current moral issues
 - 2.2. Students will achieve an understanding of claims that good is definable in terms of pleasure or a plurality of intrinsic goods that include knowledge and beauty, etc.
 - 2.3. Based on this students will logically assess the strengths and weaknesses of these claims as they pertain to current moral issues
3. Egoism
 - 3.1. Students will logically discuss the moral implications of both Psychological and Ethical Egoism, based on an understanding of those two views
 - 3.2. Students will critically evaluate these theories in the Light Joseph Butler's attack on Egoism
 - 3.3. Students will logically explore the impact of Egoism and Relativism on the Me Generation
4. The general good
 - 4.1. Students will acquire an understanding of both ACT and Rule Utilitarianism
 - 4.2. Based on this understanding students will logically assess the strengths and weakness of utilitarianism as it pertains to current moral issues
5. Kantian ethics
 - 5.1. Students will achieve an understanding of the rules played by motive, duty and intuition in the theory of Immanuel Kant and explore the contention that it may not always be right to act out or a sense of duty if it results in wrongful acts
 - 5.2. Students will arrive at an understanding of Kants' Categorical Imperative
 - 5.3. Students will logically assess the legitimacy of adopting moral rules that are to be universal and absolute as such rules pertain to current moral issues and differing circumstances



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- 5.4. Students will explore the possibility of conjoining, in some fashion or another, Utilitarianism and Kantian ethics
6. Human rights
 - 6.1. Students will obtain an understanding of what constitutes a human right
 - 6.2. Students will examine what qualifies as a basic human right in terms of modern society
 - 6.3. Students will discuss how basic human rights are not applicable to children and animals
 - 6.4. Students will clarify relationships between human rights and the law
 - 6.5. Students shall evaluate how human rights should affect their own moral and political decision making
7. Justice
 - 7.1. Students will logically consider various formulations of equitable Treatment in hiring and promotions
 - 7.2. Students will evaluate application of these varying formulations to the contemporary market place
 - 7.3. Students will examine the concepts of just and unjust punishments as they relate to modern society
 - 7.4. Students will logically discuss questions relating to praise and blame
8. Moral responsibility
 - 8.1. Students will explore the connections between intentional or unintentional acts and responsibility
 - 8.2. Students will examine various theories as to what constitutes legitimate excusability
 - 8.3. Students will evaluate varying forms of paternalism in contemporary society
 - 8.4. Students will acquire an understanding of and be able to contrast and evaluate determinism, compatibilism, and indeterminism
 - 8.5. Students will logically assess conditions and reasonability of holding themselves and others morally accountable for personal moral decisions and conduct
9. Morality and the State
 - 9.1. Students will explore conditions under which it is morally right or wrong to obey the law
 - 9.2. Students will examine the reasonability of disobeying lawful orders from authority or conscience
 - 9.3. Students will formulate their own ethical views regarding circumstances under which they believe it justifiable to defy, the State of other lawful and socially acceptable authority, and when it is not morally appropriate to do so
 - 9.4. Students will examine the advisability of holding states morally accountable in international affairs as individuals are held morally accountable in their interpersonal relationships

ASSESSMENT METHODS:

Student performance may be assessed by examination, quizzes, case studies, oral conversation, group discussion, oral presentations. The instructor reserves the option to employ one or more of these assessment methods during the course.

GRADING SCALE:

90%-100% = A
80%-89.9%= B
70%-79.9%= C
60%-69.9%= D
<60% = E