

PHILOSOPHY 2306
Introduction To Ethics

Western Texas College
Department of Social Sciences

- I. Basic Course Information
 - A. Course description - The systematic evaluation of classical and/or contemporary ethical theories concerning the good life, human conduct in society, morals, and standards of value.
 - B. Prerequisites - Student should have a proficiency in reading and writing.
- II. Student Learning Outcomes. Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
 - A. Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.
 - B. Define and appropriately use important terms such as relativism, virtue, duty, rights, utilitarianism, natural law, egoism, altruism, autonomy, and care ethics.
 - C. Demonstrate knowledge of major arguments and problems in ethics.
 - D. Present and discuss well-reasoned ethical positions in writing.
 - E. Apply ethical concepts and principles to address moral concerns.
 - F. Apply course material to various aspects of life.
 - G. Discuss ways of living responsibly in a world where people have diverse ethical beliefs.
- III. Student Learning Outcomes.
 - A. The student will become acquainted with the philosophical discipline of Ethics, including several philosophically significant ethical theories.
 - B. The student will learn how to apply theories to contemporary moral problems.
- IV. Major Course Requirements
 - A. Reading: There will be weekly reading assignments for each week of the course.
 - B. Exams: There will be three to four major exams spaced throughout the semester.
 - C. Writing Assignments: There will be multiple writing assignments spaced throughout the semester.
- V. Information on Books and Other Course Materials
 - A. *Social and Personal Ethics*, 7th Edition, by William H. Shaw. ISBN: 9780495095002
- VI. Other Policies: Please refer to the WTC Course [Catalog](#) for the following:
 - A. Campus Calendar
 - B. Final Exam schedule
 - C. How to drop a class
 - D. Withdrawal information
 - E. Student Conduct/Academic Integrity
 - F. Students with disabilities

- G. Departmental Policy in regard to make-up/late work: Late papers will be penalized at 10 points per day. After 5 days the grade turns to an automatic "0"

VI. Course Organization & Tentative Schedule*

Week	Topics	Reading Assignments
Week 1	An Introduction to Ethics.	Chapter 1: The Nature of Morality. Normative Theories of Ethics.
Week 2	Ethical Relativism.	Chapter 2: JAMES RACHELS: The Challenge of Cultural Relativism.
Week 3	Four Rival Ethical Perspectives.	Chapter 3: ARISTOTLE: Happiness, Function, and Virtue. IMMANUEL KANT: Good Will, Duty, and the Categorical Imperative. JOHN STUART MILL: Utilitarianism. W. D. ROSS: What Makes Right Acts Right?
Week 4	Suicide and Euthanasia.	Chapter 4: RICHARD B. BRANDT: The Morality and Rationality of Suicide. DAN W. BROCK: Voluntary Active Euthanasia. DANIEL CALLAHAN: When Self-Determination Runs Amok. JOHN HARDWIG: Is There a Duty to Die?
Week 5	Abortion.	Chapter 5: JOHN T. NOONAN, JR.: An Almost Absolute Value in History. MARY ANNE WARREN: The Moral Status of Abortion. DON MARQUIS: An Argument That Abortion Is Wrong. JUDITH JARVIS THOMSON: A Defense of Abortion. ROSALIND HURSTHOUSE: Virtue Theory and Abortion.
Week 6	Animals, Vegetarianism, and Environmental Ethics.	Chapter 6: PETER SINGER: The Place of Nonhumans in Environmental Issues. TIBOR R. MACHAN: Do Animals Have Rights? MYLAN ENGEL, JR.: Why You Are Committed to the Immorality of Eating Meat. R. M. HARE: Why I Am Only a Demi-Vegetarian. PETER SINGER: Reply to Hare. HOLMES ROLSTON III: Respect for Life. PETER SINGER: Reply to Rolston.
Week 7	Liberty and Paternalism.	Chapter 7: JOHN STUART MILL: On Liberty. GERALD DWORKIN: Paternalism. DAVID

		BOAZ: A Drug-Free America—or a Free America? U.S. DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY: Speaking Out Against Drug Legalization.
Week 8	Marriage and Sexual Morality.	Chapter 8: JOHN CORVINO: Why Shouldn't Tommy and Jim Have Sex? MICHAEL PAKALUK: Homosexuality, Gay Marriage, and the Common Good. JACOB M. HELD: Gay Marriage: The Case for Equal Treatment. MIKE W. MARTIN: Adultery and Fidelity. NICHOLAS DIXON: Alcohol and Rape. HELEN E. LONGINO: Pornography, Oppression, and Freedom.
Week 9	Voting and Democracy.	Chapter 9: JOHN STUART MILL: Considerations on Representative Government. LOREN S. LOMASKY and GEOFFREY BRENNAN: Is There a Duty to Vote? EDITORS, HARVARD LAW REVIEW: The Case for Compulsory Voting.
Week 10	Crime, Guns, and Rights.	Chapter 10: DANIEL D. POLSBY: The False Promise of Gun Control. NICHOLAS DIXON: Handguns and Violent Crime. MICHAEL HUEMER: Is There a Right to Own a Gun?
Week 11	Punishment and the Death Penalty.	Chapter 11: WILLIAM H. SHAW: Punishment and the Criminal Justice System. ERNEST VAN DEN HAAG: The Ultimate Punishment: A Defense. JEFFREY H. REIMAN: Justice, Civilization, and the Death Penalty. U.S. SUPREME COURT: Atkins v. Virginia.
Week 12	The Ethics of War and the Response to Terrorism.	Chapter 12: DOUGLAS P. LACKEY: Pacifism. J. JOSEPH MILLER: Jus ad Bellum and an Officer's Moral Obligations: Ignorance, the Constitution, and Iraq. AVISHAI MARGALIT and MICHAEL WALZER: Civilians and Combatants. JEFF McMAHAN: Torture in Principle and in Practice.
Week 13	Race, Discrimination, and Affirmative Action.	Chapter 13: BARACH OBAMA, A More Perfect Union. RICHARD A. WASSERSTROM: One Way to Understand and Defend Programs of Preferential Treatment. LOUIS P. POJMAN: The Case Against Affirmative Action. U.S. SUPREME

		COURT: The University of Michigan Affirmative Action Cases. LUCY WANG, Weight Discrimination.
Week 14	Social Justice.	Chapter 14: EDITORS, HARVARD LAW REVIEW: Never Again Shall A People Starve in a World of Plenty. JOHN ISBISTER: Welfare and Social Justice. ROBERT M. VEATCH: Let the Poor Sell Their Kidneys. D. W. HASLETT: Is Inheritance Justified? U.S. SUPREME COURT: Kelo v. City of New London.
Week 15	Ethics in Business.	Chapter 15: MICHAEL J. PHILLIPS: The Inconclusive Case Against Manipulative Advertising. THOMAS L. CARSON: The Ethics of Sales. MICHAEL DAVIS: Some Paradoxes of Whistleblowing. JOSEPH R. DESJARDINS AND RONALD DUSKA: Drug Testing in Employment.
Week 16	Final Exam	

*The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change.

Last Modified: September 20, 2017