

PHIL-202H: HONORS ETHICS

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: PHIL-202H : Honors Ethics

Board of Trustees:

MAY 2025

Academic Term:

Fall 2025

Subject Code

PHIL - Philosophy

Course Number:

202H

Title:

Honors Ethics

Catalog Description:

Study of systems and problems of human conduct with applications to moral problems and decisions. Emphasis on an in-depth study of primary sources within philosophical tradition. Prepares students for further work in philosophy, applied ethics, and any area of learning requiring reasoned views.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Lecture Hour(s):

3

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

ENG-101H Honors College Composition I, or ENG-1010 College Composition I, with a grade of "B" or higher; or departmental approval.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

A. Interpret and analyze various ethical theories.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Civic Responsibility: Analyze the results of actions and inactions with the likely effects on the larger local and/or global communities.

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

1. Explain the concept of ethics and the goals of descriptive, normative, and metaethics.
2. Account for the rise in the field of applied ethics in the 20th century.
3. Analyze and appraise Aristotle's virtue ethics as developed in the Nicomachean Ethics.
4. Analyze and appraise Kant's deontological theory as developed in the Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals.
5. Analyze and appraise Mill's teleological theory as developed in Utilitarianism.
6. Using primary sources, analyze and appraise the ethical theory of at least one other philosopher such as: Plato, David Hume, G. E. Moore, A. J. Ayer, Soren Kierkegaard, Jean-Paul Sartre, John Rawls, or Carol Gilligan.

Course Outcome(s):

B. Interpret and assess the historical development of ethical theory.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Information Literacy: Demonstrate contextual awareness of the research process through the reflective discovery of the production and value of information, the use of information in the creation of new knowledge and ethical participation in the use of information in communities of learning.

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

1. Critically analyze major ethical theories spanning the history of philosophy.
2. Compare and contrast the dominant ethical theories and critically assess their strengths and weaknesses.

Course Outcome(s):

C. Differentiate between ethics and other fields of philosophic inquiry such as metaphysics as well as other fields of general inquiry such as psychology.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Information Literacy: Demonstrate contextual awareness of the research process through the reflective discovery of the production and value of information, the use of information in the creation of new knowledge and ethical participation in the use of information in communities of learning.

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

1. Distinguish descriptive from prescriptive approaches to ethics.
2. Distinguish the argumentative focus of ethical reasoning from that found in other fields of philosophy including metaphysics, epistemology, and politics.
3. Critically assess the differences between the approach to ethics taken in psychology and anthropology from philosophy.

Course Outcome(s):

D. Appraise the way various ethical theories can be applied to compelling ethical dilemmas, and assess the effectiveness of each theory in resolving the moral difficulties inherent in each dilemma.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Civic Responsibility: Analyze the results of actions and inactions with the likely effects on the larger local and/or global communities.

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

1. Argumentatively justify resolutions to ethical dilemmas that are consistent with the main tenets of each theory.
2. Derive differences in resolutions to ethical dilemmas based on the theory used in the resolution.
3. Compare and contrast the resolutions to ethical dilemmas from various ethical theories.

Methods of Evaluation:

The Philosophy counterparts have agreed that the method of evaluation for 2000 level honors courses should be comprised of writing assignments that account for at least 50% of the final grade. Some methods of evaluation include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Essay exams
2. Written analysis/research oriented assignment required
3. Interpretive papers of primary source material

4. Oral presentations
5. Quizzes/objective exams and/or objective exam questions

Course Content Outline:

1. Subject matter of ethics
 - a. Definition of "ethics"
 - i. Ethics and conduct
 - ii. Ethics and psychology
 - iii. The problem of freedom
 - b. Ethics and morality
 - c. Three enterprises of ethical inquiry
 - i. Descriptive ethics and social science
 - ii. Normative ethics: deontological and teleological justification
 - iii. Metaethics
2. Socrates/Plato
 - a. Knowledge and virtue
 - b. Development of the soul
3. Aristotle's ethical theory
 - a. The good for humans
 - b. Virtues of character
 - i. Doctrine of the mean
 - ii. Theory of emotions
 - c. Intellectual virtues
 - i. Practical wisdom
 - ii. The good life
4. Augustine
 - a. Love
 - b. Free will and evil
5. Aquinas
 - a. Human freedom
 - b. Natural law
 - c. Human law
 - d. Divine law
6. Hume
 - a. Sentiment and utility
7. Kant's ethical theory
 - a. Good will and the ends of action
 - b. Motivation by duty or by inclination
 - c. The categorical imperative
 - i. Universal law formulation
 - ii. The universalization criterion
 - d. The categorical imperative: end-in-itself formulation
 - i. Being treated not merely as a means to ends
 - ii. Contrast between things and persons
 - e. Criticism of Kant's theory
8. Utilitarianism
 - a. Bentham's and Mill's version of the greatest happiness principle
 - b. Mill's attempted proof of the utility principle
 - c. Preference utilitarianism
 - d. Problems with utilitarianism
9. G. E. Moore's intuitionistic metaethics
 - a. The naturalistic fallacy
 - b. The indefinability of good
 - c. Good and other normative values
 - d. Problems with Moore's arguments
10. John Rawls's theory of justice
 - a. The original position
 - b. The nature of rights
 - c. Justice as fairness
11. Existentialist theory

- a. Essence and existence
 - b. Theistic and atheistic themes
 - c. Freedom, choice, and values
12. Feminist ethics
- a. Care
- .

Resources

Kant, Immanuel (Trans. Thomas Kingsmill) . *Groundwork for the Metaphysic of Morals*. Digireads.com Publishing, 2017.

Denise, Theodore C., Nicholas White, Sheldon P. Peterfreund eds. *Great Traditions in Ethics*. 12th ed. Stamford: Wadsworth, 2007.

Ayer, A. J. *Language, Truth, and Logic*. Rare Treasure Editions, 2024.

Bentham, Jeremy. *The Principles of Morals and Legislation*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2018.

Dewey, John. *Human Nature and Conduct*. Digireads.com Publishing, 2012.

Edwards, Craig. *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. 10 vols. New York: Routledge, 2005.

Kant, Immanuel. *The Doctrine of Virtue*. Oxford University Press, 2021.

Kant, Immanuel. *Lectures on Ethics*. Cambridge University Press,, 1997.

Mill, John Stuart. *Utilitarianism*. Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 2017.

Moore, G. E. *Principia Ethica*. Dover Publications, 2004.

Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*. Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 2019.

Sartre, Jean-Paul. *Existentialism and Human Emotions*. Yale University Press,, 2007.

Hume, David. *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*. Clarendon Press,, 2006.

Rawls, John. *A Theory of Justice*. Belknap Press: An Imprint of Harvard University Press,, 1999.

Becker, Lawrence and Charlotte. *Encyclopedia of Ethics, 3 vols*. 2nd ed. New York: Garland, 2001.

Aquinas, Thomas. *Summa Theologiae*. The Aquinas Institute, 2012.

Maimonides. *Ethical Writings of Maimonides*. Ed. by R.L. Weiss, 1983.

Gilligan, Carol. *In a Different Voice*. Cambridge, MA, 1993.

Singer, Peter. *Animal Liberation*. The Bodley Head Ltd, 2015.

Kierkegaard, Soren. *Fear and Trembling*. Lebooks Editora, 2024.

Kierkegaard, Soren. *Either Or*. Shanghai Translation Publishing House, 2023.

Plato. *Republic*. Fingerprint! Publishing, 2015.

"Journal of Philosophy"

"Journal of Ethics"

"Ethical Theory and Moral Practice"

"Philosophy and Public Affairs"

"Utilitas"

"Ethics; an international journal of social, political and legal philosophy"

"Journal of Moral Philosophy"

Anscombe, G.E.M. *Human Life, Action and Ethics: Essays by G.E.M. Anscombe*. St Andrews Studies in Philosophy and Public Affairs, 2006.

Nozick, Robert. *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*. Basic Books; Reprint edition, 2013.

Habermas, Jürgen. *Justification and Application: Remarks on Discourse Ethics*. The MIT Press, 1993.

Brandt, Richard. *Morality, Utilitarianism, and Rights*. Cambridge University Press , 1992.

Gert, Bernard. *Morality*. Oxford University Press; Revised edition, 2005.

Hare, R.M. *The Language Of Morals*. Oxford, 1991.

Alasdair MacIntyre. *After Virtue*. 3rd. University of Notre Dame Press, 2007.

Rachels, James, ed. *The Right Thing To Do: Basic Readings in Moral Philosophy*. 7th. McGraw-Hill Education, 2014.

Rachels, James. *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*. 9th. McGraw-Hill Education, 2018.

Ross, W.D. *The Right and the Good*. Hackett Pub Co Inc, 1988.

Resources Other

1. Guide to Philosophy on the Internet: <http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/philinks.htm>
2. The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://www.iep.utm.edu/1/iep-standards.htm>
3. The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://plato.stanford.edu/>
4. Ethics Resources, A Guide to Using the World Wide Web in Ethics Teaching and Research: <http://ethics.acusd.edu/resources.html>
5. The American Philosophical Association: <http://www.apa.udel.edu/apa/index.html>
6. Philosophy in Cyberspace: <http://www-personal.monash.edu.au/~dey/phil/>
7. [The Journal of Ethics: https://link.springer.com/journal/10892](https://link.springer.com/journal/10892)
8. [The Journal of Moral Philosophy: https://brill.com/view/journals/jmp/jmp-overview.xml](https://brill.com/view/journals/jmp/jmp-overview.xml)
9. Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal: <https://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/kennedy-institute-ethics-journal>
10. [Teaching Ethics: https://www.pdcnet.org/tej](https://www.pdcnet.org/tej)
11. [Ethics: https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/toc/et/current](https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/toc/et/current)

Instructional Services

OAN Number:

Ohio Transfer 36 TMAH and Transfer Assurance Guide OAH046

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