



Syllabus

Course Number/Title: PI 276 Introduction to Ethics

Year: Fall 2012

Department: Philosophy-Academic Division

Credit Hours: Three

Required Text: Thiroux & Krasemann. (2012). Ethics theory and Practice. 11th ed. Pearson. ISBN 978-0-205-05314-8

Course Placement: Freshmen/Sophomore

Prerequisite: None

Rationale

This is an introductory course which fulfills a Humanities requirement in the General Education Requirements of the Transfer and Articulation agreement between the Kansas Regents Universities and Kansas Community Colleges.

Course Description

This course takes up the central problems of thinking rationally about moral questions and critically examines the best-known efforts by philosophers to deal with problems. Issues to be explored include: ethical relativism, diversity of moral rules, determinism.

Course Outline See page # 6

Course Learning Objectives Assessed:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with and understanding of basic ethical theories, terminology and concepts.
2. Demonstrate an ability to understand the significance of ethical and moral decisions and actions in a broader cultural and historical context.
3. Demonstrate an ability to develop and evaluate ethical/philosophical analysis, arguments, and texts and appreciate alternate points of view.

Kansas Core Outcomes Statement

The learning outcomes and competencies detailed in this syllabus meet or exceed the learning outcomes and competencies specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Project for this course.

Course Competencies

After completing the course, students will exhibit the following competencies:

1. Describe the conceptual tools and argumentative strategies needed to move beyond merely having opinions.
2. Discuss the topics of the moral point of view including ethical reflection.
3. Interpret information, values, and assumptions that underlie different positions on controversial issues and cases, illustrate how to move from contentious debates to productive dialogues.
4. Define ethical relativism; interpret the absolute position in ethical absolutism, and ethical pluralism.
5. Define the diversity of religious traditions, including religious belief and moral rules; discuss moral exemplars, the role of religion in the moral life and the diversity of religious belief.
6. Define psychological absolutism, relativism, freedom, and determinism, review moral reasoning, ethical theory and contemporary moral problems, and analyze personal and social responsibility in a diverse world.
7. Discuss reward, punishment, marriage, human sexuality, race ethnicity and issues and life in contemporary Moral Theory; discuss the ethics of duty as understood by the humanitarian ethics perspective.
8. Define the justification of natural, moral, and life affecting rights.
9. Compare and contrast ethical issues in health care, assess issues involving valid informed consent, communication, and confidentiality.
10. Compare and contrast the ethics of life and death decisions, explore the ethics of advanced directives, critical care and end of life Issues (explore nursing, social work & Psychological issues)
11. Explain the ethics of rights, intentions of duty and respect, analyze the ethics of selfishness and egoism, and compare the character of virtues and vices.
12. Contrast the diversity of gender, race, and ethnicity, discuss the ethics of diversity found in the new moral concepts, relate the ethics of care to moral theory and minority rights.
13. Compare and contrast humanitarian ethics and the virtues of living in a multicultural world, describe the subject matter of philosophy and the use of operational definitions.
14. Compare and contrast humanitarian ethics and its relationship to the moral problems people face today using the seven *prima facie* duties outlined by Sir William David Ross.

Method of Instruction

Your instructor strongly believes that a free and open exchange of ideas and points of view concerning the concepts and issues that surround ethical decision making is an essential element of the learning process. This approach requires that students think about ethics in an objective fashion. It also requires students to adequately prepare themselves to participate in class discussions. Opposing points of view, even those contrary to his own, which are in good taste, pertinent to the topic at hand, and intended to enhance the learning process are encouraged.

As such, this course will be a collaborative effort between the instructor and student. We will engage in lectures, class discussion, simulation exercises, critical writing, practical encounters, and evaluating videos.

Method of Evaluation

The instructor's evaluation of the student will be based upon class discussion, examination, class presence, student participation, research, and student attitude. Attend each class. Keep clear, chronological notes of the various classroom presentations. Participate in class activities in a positive and sincere manner during class and maintain respect for other students.

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| a. | "Pop" quizzes, student participation, attendance, and attitude | 10% |
| b. | Case Analysis | 10% |
| c. | Essay Questions | 15% |
| d. | Exams | 15% |
| e. | Rough Draft of Ethics paper | 10% |
| f. | Peer evaluation/analysis of Ethics paper | 10% |
| g. | Ethics paper | 30% |
| h. | Syllabus Quiz | |
| i. | Written presentation of ethics paper (written in approved format), not less than 8 typed double space pages, including works cited page (sample attached) | |
| j. | Topics must be approved by the instructor. Each class member will complete a written evaluation of classmate's papers as assigned by the instructor. See example attached. | |
| k. | Your instructor will complete athletic grade report sheets only in his office during posted office hours. This assures an accurate listing of class attendance, homework completed and grades. | |

- l. Any extra credit offered during the semester will count for a maximum of 10% on the next scheduled exam.
- m. grading scale. There is no grading curve, nor are there any expectations as to the number of A's, B's, C's, *etc.* are given in a particular class. Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
under 60	F

Course Requirements - Student Responsibilities

Citizenship

The nature of the class is intended to elicit spirited debate and discussion. You are to operate under the assumption that everyone is acting in good faith as to honestly held beliefs. Those beliefs will be respected; discussions will be issue oriented only and not personal. There will be no personal attacks, name calling, questioning of patriotism or the like. One goal of this course is to teach you to learn how to think and analyze critically and academically.

Behavior

Students pay money to take this course, and most want to learn. However, sometimes an individual is not primarily interested in learning and disturbs or distracts others during class in a variety of ways, such as talking, and laughing. Therefore, I reserve the right to ask the student to leave class and to reduce a student's grade by a letter for each incident. This also extends to a student who distracts others and me by reading other non-class materials or studying for another class. A serious case of misconduct can result in expulsion from the course and a failing grade. Please be considerate of others trying to listen, trying to contribute and trying to learn.

Food/Drink - You are to refrain from eating or drinking during class.
Tobacco products are prohibited in Bedker Memorial Complex.

Assignment Policy

You must be prepared to discuss the assigned reading for each class. You are also responsible to learn all reading material assigned, whether or not it was covered in class. So pace yourself and do not leave your reading until just before a writing assignment is due. Use whatever learning skill you like, but I recommend reading the material at least twice, and making notes about key concepts, or make an outline. You must be able to demonstrate knowledge of the material presented in class, and you must read and comprehend the text.

Test Policy

- 1. If you must miss a writing assignment/test, please make prior arrangements with instructor, as soon as possible, during posted office hours only.

2. **Makeup writing assignments/tests will not be accepted later than one week after the missed writing assignment is due. Failure to complete the writing assignments in this time period will result in a grade of F for that assignment. NO EXCEPTIONS!**
3. ***Make-up exams will cover the same material presented in class, but your instructor reserves the right to administer different versions of tests.***

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is essential to earning a passing grade in this class and is required. If you plan to drop the course, it is your responsibility to officially withdraw before the last day to drop. If you fail to do so, you may receive a failing grade in the course, instead of a "W". **You are expected to attend each session.**

Academic Integrity Policy

Colby Community College defines academic integrity as learning that leads to the development of knowledge and/or skills without any form of cheating or plagiarism. This learning requires respect for Colby's institutional values of quality, service and integrity. All Colby Community College students, faculty, staff, and administrators are responsible for upholding academic integrity.

Cheating is giving, receiving, or using unauthorized help on individual and group academic exercises such as papers, quizzes, tests, and presentations through any delivery system in any learning environment. This includes impersonating another student, sharing content without authorization, fabricating data, and altering academic documents, including records, with or without the use of personal and college electronic devices.

Plagiarism is representing or turning in someone else's work without proper citation of the source. This includes unacknowledged paraphrase, quotation, or complete use of someone else's work in any form. It also includes citing work that is not used and taking credit for a group project without contributing to it.

The following procedure will be used for students who violate the policy:

- First Offense – Student will receive a zero for the assignment and the student will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs.
- Second Offense – The student will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs and removed from the class.
- Third Offense – The student will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs and dismissed from the college.

Any questions about this policy may be referred to the Dean of Academic Affairs.

Assessment Statement

Colby Community College assesses student learning at several levels: general education, program, and classroom. The goal of these assessment activities is to improve student

learning. As a student in this course, you will participate in various assessment activities. An example of your work, a paper, some test questions, a presentation, or other work may be selected for assessment. This process will not affect your grade, will not require you do additional work and your evaluation will be confidentially handled. Results of these activities will be used to improve teaching and learning at Colby Community College.

A formal assessment exercise will be conducted at the end of the semester. All students are expected to participate in this exercise.

Recommended Resources

Search items at the library. Go to the college web site; then click Student Services; then click Library; then click Library Database to access the following resources: Infotrac, then go to the Opposing Viewpoints. Selections are also found at http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/klmb_colby?id= password klmb_log

Syllabus Information Disclaimer

Your instructor reserves the right to change any information contained in this document, when necessary, with adequate notice given to the student. Notice shall be given in the classroom during class. No other notice is required. It is the students' responsibility to keep up with any changes, modifications, adjustments, or amendments that are made to this document.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is the responsibility of each student with a disability to notify the college of his/her disability and to request accommodation. If a member of the class has a documented learning disability or physical disability and needs special accommodation, he/she should contact Student Support Services, which is located in the Student Union.

Course Outline Tuesday & Thursday Ethics Class

Week 1

Aug.	21	T	Introduction to Ethics, "How to Write an Ethics Paper"
	23	R	Chapter 1 What is Morality?

Week 2

	28	T	Field Trip Library Research
	30	R	Exam Chapter 1

Week 3

Sept.	4	T	Chapter 2 Consequentialist Theories of Morality Ethical Case Analysis
	6	R	Review Chapter 2 Exam Chapter 2

Week 4

	11	T	Chapter 3 Nonconsequentialist Theories of Morality and Virtue Ethics Ethical Case Analysis
	13	R	Review Chapter 3 Exam Chapter 3
Week 5	18	T	Chapter 4 Virtue Ethics Ethical Case Analysis
	20	R	Review Chapter 4 Exam Chapter 4
Week 6	25	T	Chapter 5 Absolutism VS Relativism
	27	R	Review Chapter 5 Exam Chapter 5 Ethical Case Analysis
Week 7	Oct. 2	T	Chapter 6 Freedom Vs Determinism
	4	R	Exam Chapter 6
Week 8	9	T	Chapter 7 Reward & Punishment
	11	R	Exam Chapter 7
Week 9	16	T	Chapter 8 Setting Up a Moral System: Basic Assumptions and Basic Principles
	18	R	Review Chapter 8 Exam Chapter 8
Week 10	23	T	Chapter 9 the Taking of A Human Life
	25	R	Review Chapter 9 Exam Chapter 9
Week 11	30	T	Chapter 10 Allowing Someone to Die, Mercy Death, and Mercy Killing
Nov.	1	R	Exam Chapter 10
Week 12	6	T	NO CLASS Spring 2013 Enrollment
	8	R	Chapter 12 Lying, Cheating& Breaking Promises
Week 13	13	T	Exam Chapter 12

	15	R	Chapter 13 Morality, Marriage & Human Sexuality
Week 14			
	20	T	Chapter 13 Exam
	22	R	NO CLASS Thanksgiving Break
Week 15			
	27	T	Rough Draft of Ethics Paper Due NO EXCEPTIONS!! peer review of Ethics Paper
	29	R	Chapter 14 Bioethics - Ethical Issues in Medicine
Week 16			
Dec.	4	T	Review Chapter 14
	6	R	Video: "A Questionable Doctor"
Week 17			
	11	T	Review Chapter 14
	13	R	1:00-3:00 p.m. (Classes meeting at 10:50 TR) Final Paper Analysis – Chapter 14 exam