

PHI 240
INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: ENG 111

Corequisites: None

This course introduces theories about the nature and foundations of moral judgments as well as applications to contemporary moral issues. Emphasis is on utilitarianism, rule-based ethics, existentialism, relativism versus objectivism, and egoism. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement for the general education core requirement in humanities/fine arts.* Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- a. Understand the importance of respecting diverse perspective on complex and controversial moral issues.
- b. Rationally discuss ethical controversies and disputes.
- c. Articulate the connection between ethical theory and ethical practice.
- d. Identify the philosophical bases for ethical decisions.
- e. Prioritize or qualify conflicting ethical principles involved in the resolution of a given moral dilemma.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. Introduction
 - A. Forms of argument
 - B. Ethical interests
- II. Moral doctrines
 - A. Aristotle's Theory of the Means
 - B. Utilitarianism
 - C. Kant's Categorical Imperative
 - D. Humanitarianism
 - E. Social Contract Theory
 - F. Existentialism
 - G. Relativism versus Universalism

III. Punishment and culpability

- A. Capital punishment
- B. Free will and moral responsibility

IV. The just society

- A. Abortion
- B. Euthanasia
- C. Sex and marriage
- D. Pornography, hate speech and censorship
- E. Drug control and addiction
- F. Social and economic justice
- G. Feminism

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

To be selected by instructor.

STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling 919-536-7207, ext. 1413 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1209.