



## Ethics

HUM 201

Southwestern College Professional Studies

### COURSE SYLLABUS

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#### I. Course Catalog Description

Ethics introduces students to moral philosophy, the branch of philosophy that questions what is good and bad. In the first two thirds of the course, students will learn about a number of important ethical theories—ethical relativism, objectivism, egoism, altruism, utilitarianism, duty-based moral theory, natural law, natural rights, and virtue ethics—as they examine reasons as to why certain actions are morally right or wrong. In the final third of the course, students will apply their knowledge of ethical theories to analyze and evaluate many sides of current controversial issues such as euthanasia, abortion, and cloning. Upon completing this course, students will have gained the ability to question ethical matters from a variety of angles, and thus will have acquired new tools to assist them in making ethically sound, well-informed decisions throughout their lives.

#### II. Required and Supplementary Instructional Materials

MacKinnon, B. (2015). *Ethics: theory and contemporary Issues* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.). Cengage Learning. ISBN: 9781305077508. This ebook is included in the course fees for this class. No additional book purchase is necessary.

#### III. Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that learners gain as the result of a particular learning experience. Southwestern College Professional Studies has learning outcomes specific to each program of study that are in line with the institutional outcomes of critical thinking, ethical reasoning, leadership, communication, and career preparation. Course outcomes support program outcomes and are listed below.

Upon successfully completing this course, the learner will be able to:

1. Describe the main components of moral philosophy and explain their significance in making well-informed decisions.
2. Analyze the effect of religion, motive, and consequences on ethical conduct, theories, principles, and judgments to become familiar with foundational forms of ethical thinking.
3. Analyze elements of good arguments as part of the process of making a well-informed decision.
4. Compare the basic tenets of and arguments for and against individual ethical relativism, cultural ethical relativism, objectivism, egoism, and altruism to become familiar with foundational forms of ethical thinking.
5. Analyze the principles of and criticisms against the theories of utilitarianism, duty-based moral theory, and natural law and natural rights to become familiar with foundational forms of ethical thinking.
6. Describe virtue ethics to become familiar with foundational forms of ethical thinking.
7. Examine many sides of current moral dilemmas and ethical issues to make well-informed decisions about actions on these issues.

At the end of the course, learners may vary in their ability to achieve these outcomes. You are more likely to achieve these outcomes only if you attend class and/or online activities as required by the syllabus, complete the requirements for all assignments to the best of your ability, participate actively in class activities and group work as directed, and study diligently for exams.

#### IV. Course Policies

Students are expected to read and abide by the course policies located in the instructor-specific syllabus in the blackboard course.

#### V. Course Requirements:

Requirements	Number of Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
Introductions	1	10	1%
Discussions	5	225	22.5%
Multiple-Choice Quizzes	3	90	9%
Writing Assignments	9	525	52.5%
Final Exam	1	150	15%
<b>Total Points</b>		<b>1000</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### VI. Course at a Glance:

Unit	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Read <i>Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues</i>, Chapters 1 and 2</li><li>View lecture slides for Chapters 1 and 2</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Introductions</li><li>Unit 1 Discussion</li><li>Assignment 1.1: Essay</li><li>Assignment 1.2: Quiz</li></ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Read <i>Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues</i>, Chapters 3 and 4</li><li>View lecture slides for Chapters 3 and 4</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Assignment 2.1: Essay</li><li>Assignment 2.2: Essay</li><li>Assignment 2.3: Quiz</li></ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Read <i>Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues</i>, Chapters 5 and 6</li><li>View lecture slides for Chapters 5 and 6</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Unit 3 Discussion</li><li>Assignment 3.1: Essay</li><li>Assignment 3.2: Essay</li></ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Read <i>Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues</i>, Chapters 7-9</li><li>View lecture slides for Chapters 7-9</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Unit 4 Discussion</li><li>Assignment 4.1: Essay</li><li>Assignment 4.2: Quiz</li></ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Read <i>Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues</i>, Chapters 10-14</li><li>View lecture slides for Chapters 10-14</li><li>Schedule a consultation with the Online Writing Center</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Unit 5 Discussion</li><li>Assignment 5.1: Essay</li><li>Assignment 5.2: Writing Assignment</li></ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Read <i>Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues</i>, Chapters 15-20</li><li>View lecture slides for Chapters 15-20</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Unit 6 Discussion</li><li>Assignment 6.1: Essay</li><li>Assignment 6.2: Final Exam</li></ul>

#### VII. Other Policies and Requirements

Follow this link to the Southwestern College Professional Studies [Standard Syllabus](#) in Blackboard. You may be required to log in.