



Ethics

HUM 201

Southwestern College Professional Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS

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* (8th ed.). Cengage Learning. ISBN: 9781305077508.

III. Course Delivery

This course is delivered in a fully online format through Southwestern College's Blackboard (Bb) learning management system.

Online courses typically contain a blend of synchronous (real-time) and asynchronous (not real-time) material. Depending on the course, you may be required at times to interact "live," which might mean attending a scheduled Collaborate session. You may also be required to view or listen to a lecture or other video on a specific date and time. Of course, if there are circumstances that prohibit you from logging in to a scheduled synchronous activity, an alternate assignment will be provided. Please refer to the [Course at a Glance](#) section which will note any synchronous activities.

IV. 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.

V. Expectations

Learners can expect the instructor to:

- Respond to e-mail and phone contact attempts promptly (if you do not receive a response after 48 hours please follow-up as a technology glitch may have occurred)
- Substantially participate in weekly discussions/lecture
- Employ impartial and consistent grading practices
- Provide assignment grades and feedback in one week or less

Instructors can expect the learner to:

- Review the syllabus in its entirety requesting clarification prior to beginning week 1 coursework
- Obtain access to the required course materials prior to the class start date or notify the instructor of any delay no later than Tuesday of week 1 of the course
- Review and abide by the [Professionalism and Academic Expectations at Professional Studies](#) document
- Use their assigned **sckans.edu** email account rather than a personal email address for all communications to the instructor, per Southwestern College policy
- Submit course assignment questions with enough notice to receive and incorporate feedback prior to the assignment due date (see [course late policy](#))
- Possess basic skills in Microsoft Office, and have the ability to access Blackboard
- Include the [course ID](#) (Ex: CORE101) on all e-mail correspondence
- Check Blackboard course announcements often during the course
- Communicate with instructors and classmates in a professional and respectful manner
- Substantially participate in weekly discussion/lecture (it is strongly suggested that Bb posts be prepared in a word processing software application then checked for grammar errors prior to submission)
- Submit assignments via the appropriate avenue (e.g. discussion board, Bb assignment link, etc.)
- Adhere to the Southwestern College [Student Code of Conduct](#) and [Standards of Academic Integrity](#)
- Create and submit original work

VI. Grading Scale and Criteria

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Quality Points</u>	<u>Course Scale</u>
A+	4.00	100%
A	4.00	94.0-99.9%
A-	3.67	90.0-93.9%
B+	3.33	87.0-89.9%
B	3.00	84.0-86.9%
B-	2.67	80.0-83.9%
C+	2.33	77.0-79.9%
C	2.00	74.0-76.9%
C-	1.67	70.0-73.9%
D+	1.33	67.0-69.9%

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Quality Points</u>	<u>Course Scale</u>
D	1.00	64.0-66.9%
D-	0.67	60.0-63.9%
F	0.00	< 60.0%

<u>Grade:</u>	<u>Criteria and Guidelines:</u>
A+	The grade of A+ is reserved for a perfect score (100%) of all work in a course.
A	Superior work: Superior performance that far exceeds the minimum expectations and demonstrates an excellent understanding of the concepts addressed in the course.
B	Above average work: Good performance that exceeds the minimum expectations and demonstrates a higher than average understanding of the concepts addressed in the course.
C	Average Work: Adequate performance that meets the minimal expectations and demonstrates a basic understanding of the concepts addressed in the course.
D	Minimally acceptable work for receiving credit: Below average performance that does not meet the minimum expectations and/or does not demonstrate a basic understanding of the concepts addressed in the course.
F	Failure: Unacceptable performance. No credit will be awarded, but the grade will be included in GPA calculations.
WF	Withdraw/Fail: A final grade of WF will be recorded for learners who either never access/attend or submit any assignments for courses.
WD, AW, I, S, W, WM	Please refer to the Grading System section of the appropriate catalog.

VII. College Policies

Students are expected to read and abide by the college policies as listed in the appropriate catalog:

- [Undergraduate Catalog](#): For learners who do not possess a bachelor's degree, are pursuing an additional bachelor's degree or for graduate learners who are enrolled in 100-400 level courses.
- [Graduate Catalog](#): For learners who have earned a bachelor's degree and are pursuing a master's degree or graduate level certificate or learners who are enrolled in 500+ level courses.

[Non-Discrimination Policy](#)

[Student Code of Conduct](#)

[Academic Integrity Policy](#)

[Policies for Dealing with Violations of Academic Integrity](#)

[Incomplete Policy](#)

[Withdraw Policy](#)

VIII. Course Policies

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

IX. [Technology Requirements](#)

X. Citation

Check the Academic Resources link in the course menu of your Blackboard course to find the specific requirements and resources for formatting manuscripts and documenting various kinds of sources when submitting written work.

XI. SafeAssign®

This instructor may use SafeAssign®, which is a system that allows for checking the originality of writing and proper citing. Your assignments may be run through this software.

XII. 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%
Total Points		1000	100%

XIII. Course at a Glance:

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

XIV. College Resources

[Advising](#)

[Self-Service](#)

[Withdraw Form](#)

[Blackboard Learn](#)

[SCPS Bookstore](#)

[Deets Library](#)

[Online Writing Center](#): View this brief [video tutorial](#) that explains how to enroll in Blackboard

IT Support: sc.helpdesk@sckans.edu or 620.229.6444.

XV. ADA Compliance Statement

Students in this course who have a disability preventing them from fully demonstrating their academic abilities should contact Steve Kramer, Disability Services Coordinator. This will begin the disability verification process and allow discussion of accommodations. He can be reached at (620) 229-6307 or (toll free) at 1-800-846-1543, or by email at steve.kramer@sckans.edu. The web page for Disability Services can be found here: <http://www.sckans.edu/student-services/1st-class/sc-access/>.

XVI. Senior Capstone and Graduate Projects:

The majority of the programs offered by Southwestern College Professional Studies conclude with a Senior Capstone or Graduate Project. During the Capstone or Project course students will be required to retrieve papers, assignments and projects that they created during their entire program of study. For this reason it is imperative that students design a method of storing program course work for use during their final class at Southwestern College Professional Studies. Backing up course work files regularly to a secondary storage location as well (e.g., thumb drive, external hard drive, Office 365 OneDrive, etc.) is strongly recommended in case the primary means of storage is damaged or lost.