



North Central State College

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| MASTER SYLLABUS | 2025-2026 |
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- A. Academic Division: Liberal Arts
- B. Discipline: Philosophy
- C. Course Number and Title: PHIL1110 Ethics
- D. Assistant Dean: Laura Irmer, MFA, MA
- E. Credit Hours: 3
- F. Prerequisites: None
- G. Last Course/Curriculum Revision Date: Fall 2023 Origin date: 11/19/2010
- H. Textbook(s) Title:

Introduction to Ethics

- Authors: Ohio Open Ed Collaborative
- Copyright: 2018
- Edition: 1st
- ISBN (web version)
- OER Link: <https://ohiolink.oercommons.org/courseware/33>

- I. Workbook(s) and/or Lab Manual: None
- J. Course Description: This course involves an examination of several ethical theories, including ethical relativism, utilitarianism, virtue ethics, social contract ethics, theological ethics, and rational ethics. Subjects covered may include the ethics of nuclear war, the ethics of suicide, ethical issues in abortion, the ethics of euthanasia, sexual ethics, ethical issues in genetic engineering, racism and sexism, capital punishment, the environment and so on. This course meets the requirements for OTM Arts and Humanities TMAH and also TAG# OAH046.
- K. College-Wide Learning Objectives:

| College-Wide Learning Outcomes | Assessment - - How it is met & When it is met |
|--|---|
| Communication – Written | |
| Communication – Speech | |
| Intercultural Knowledge and Competence | |
| Critical Thinking | Critical Thinking VALUE Rubric |
| Information Literacy | |
| Quantitative Literacy | |

L. Course Outcomes and Assessment Methods:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student shall:

| Outcomes | Assessment - - How it is met & When it is met |
|---|--|
| 1. Define and explain ethical relativism | Papers, participation, group work--All Term |
| 2. Identify problems with ethical relativism | Papers, participation, group work--All Term |
| 3. Define and explain utilitarianism | Papers, participation, group work--All Term |
| 4. Identify problems with utilitarianism | Papers, participation, group work--All Term |
| 5. Define and explain virtue ethics | Papers, participation, group work--All Term |
| 6. Identify problems with virtue ethics | Papers, participation, group work--All Term |
| 7. Define and explain social contract ethics | Papers, participation, group work--All Term |
| 8. Identify problems with social contract ethics | Papers, participation, group work--All Term |
| 9. Define and explain absolutist ethics | Papers, participation, group work--All Term |
| 10. Identify problems with absolutist ethics | Papers, participation, group work--All Term |
| 11. Apply each theory to a series of test cases | Papers, participation, group work--All Term |
| 12. Analyze the results of applying each theory to those test cases | Papers, participation, group work--All Term |

M. Recommended Course Grading Scale:

| NUMERIC | GRADE | POINTS | DEFINITION |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 93-100 | A | 4.00 | Superior |
| 90-92 | A- | 3.67 | Superior |
| 87-89 | B+ | 3.33 | Above Average |
| 83-86 | B | 3.00 | Above Average |
| 80-82 | B- | 2.67 | Above Average |
| 77-79 | C+ | 2.33 | Average |
| 73-76 | C | 2.00 | Average |
| 70-72 | C- | 1.67 | Below Average |
| 67-69 | D+ | 1.33 | Below Average |
| 63-66 | D | 1.00 | Below Average |
| 60-62 | D- | 0.67 | Poor |
| 00-59 | F | 0.00 | Failure |

N. College Procedures/Policies:

North Central State College believes that every student is a valued and equal member of the community.* Every student brings different experiences to the College, and all are important in enriching academic life and developing greater understanding and appreciation of one another. Therefore, NC State College creates an inclusive culture in which students feel comfortable sharing their experiences.

Discrimination and prejudice have no place on the campus, and the College takes any complaint in this regard seriously. Students encountering aspects of the instruction that result in barriers to their sense of being included and respected should contact the instructor, assistant dean, or dean without fear of reprisal.

* *Inclusive of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, national origin (ancestry), military status (past, present or future), disability, age (40 years or older), status as a parent during pregnancy and immediately after the birth of a child, status as a parent of a young child, status as a foster parent, genetic information, or sexual orientation*

*

Important information regarding College Procedures and Policies can be found on the syllabus supplement located at

<https://ncstatecollege.edu/documents/President/PoliciesProcedures/PolicyManual/Final%20PDFs/14-081b.pdf>

II. Course Assignments:

Note: All assignments and discussions are to be submitted in Canvas by 11:59pm ET.

[Please post your discussions early in the week so that other students have a chance to reply to a variety of student posts.]

Module 1: Introduction to Ethics (Mon 03/16/26 – Sun 03/22/26)

Introduce Yourself Discussion and reply to two student posts

Theory: Quiz over theory section of the module

Ethics Applied: Discussion post over applied topic (reply to two students) - Euthanasia

Module 2: Ethical Relativism (Mon 03/23/26 – Sun 03/29/26)

Theory: Quiz over theory section of the module

Theory: Short Paper 1 Ethical Relativism

Ethics Applied: Discussion post over applied topic (reply to two students) – Human Trafficking

Module 3: Ethical Egoism and Altruism (Mon 03/30/26 – Sun 04/05/26)

Theory: Quiz over theory section of the module

Theory: Discussion over theory section of the module, ethical egoism and altruism

Ethics Applied: Discussion post over applied topic (reply to two students) – Wealth and Poverty in America

Module 4: Natural Law and Human Rights (Mon 04/06/26 – Sun 04/12/26)

Theory: Quiz over theory section of the module

Theory: Short Paper 2 Natural Law and Human Rights

Ethics Applied: Discussion post over applied topic (reply to two students) – Animal Rights

Module 5: Utilitarianism (Mon 04/13/26 – Sun 04/19/26)

Theory: Quiz over theory section of the module

Theory: Short Paper 3 Utilitarianism

Ethics Applied: Discussion post over applied topic (reply to two students) – Punishment and Prison Reform

Module 6: Immanuel Kant / Categorical Imperative (Mon 04/20/26 – Sun 04/26/26)

Theory: Quiz over theory section of the module

Theory: Short Paper 4 Immanuel Kant / Categorical Imperative

Ethics Applied: Discussion post over applied topic (reply to two students) – Environmental Ethics

Module 7: Virtue Ethics (Mon 04/27/26 – Sun 05/03/26)

Theory: Quiz over theory section of the module

Theory: Short Paper 5 Virtue Ethics

Ethics Applied: Discussion post over applied topic (reply to two students) – Select a Topic

Module 8: Comprehensive Final Exam (Mon 05/04/26 – Fri 05/08/26)

The final exam has two parts (Part 1 and Part 2).

Both parts are due before Friday, May 8th at **11:59pm**. No extensions given.

III. Grading and Testing Guidelines:

1. Discussions are worth 35% (9 discussions)
2. Quizzes are worth 15% (7 quizzes)
3. Short Papers are worth 30% (5 short papers)
4. Final Exam is worth 20% (one exam with two parts)
5. Total = 100%
6. Each assignment in the course is worth 100 points. Your grade is reflective of 0-100 points, and this score corresponds with the numeric distribution on the syllabus (e.g., 93-100 is an A).
7. Each assignment in Canvas will have a point value and percentage.
8. At the end of the term, Canvas will convert the points and percentages for each assignment to provide a total percentage for the course, which translates to the numerical value on the syllabus, thereby giving an overall letter grade for the course.

IV. Examination Policy:

1. The reasons for which a student will be excused from taking an examination (a,b,c).
 - a. Hospitalization (with documented verification)
 - b. Death in the immediate family (with documented verification)
 - c. Personal illness or illness in immediate family - (doctor's excuse required).
2. A student who misses a quiz is responsible for contacting the instructor and must have documentation for the missed quiz. No extensions or makeup for the final exam.

NOTE:

All quizzes/exams are administered via Canvas. Students receive (1) attempt to complete each quiz/exam. The resolution of technical complications prior to the quiz/exam is the responsibility of the student and will not be accepted as an excuse for incomplete coursework. Students are responsible for maintaining the necessary materials including computers and internet access. If technical difficulties arise, it is the student's responsibility to seek out the appropriate support before the coursework is due. Contact information for IT-Helpdesk is provided within the course.

3. Students should attempt to complete the quizzes/exams as soon as possible after they become available/accessible, and not wait until right before they are due, so technical issues can be resolved before the due date. All quizzes have one essay question. Final exam questions consist of two essays for each part of the exam (Part 1, Part 2). There are module quizzes, and a comprehensive final exam. Students are responsible for making sure their work has been submitted.
4. Quizzes/exams that have not been officially submitted may appear as "in progress" and register as a zero if the student fails to click the "submit" button prior to the due date. It is the student's responsibility to make sure the quizzes/exams are submitted correctly.

V. Class Attendance and Homework Make-Up Policy:

1. Weekly class attendance and participation is necessary to meet critical course objectives and module learning outcomes for successful engagement with peers in course discussions and the completion of all other assignments in the module, and to demonstrate breadth and depth knowledge of course material as outlined in the syllabus.
 - a. Grade is determined by completed assigned coursework
 - b. Students must receive a passing grade for the course to meet the course objectives.
2. Students are responsible for incorporating material from the theory section of the module as well as the online (OER) textbook for discussions and essays. Students are responsible for using APA style for all submitted assignments unless otherwise indicated.
 - a. Ensuring ALL coursework is completed according to directions.
 - b. Submitting ALL coursework according to the scheduled due dates.

There is no graded attendance policy; however, there is weekly graded coursework which will count as attendance. Failure to check-in the course regularly could potentially have an impact on the student's ability to stay apprised and submit work on time.

This instructor posts a weekly announcement, and the student should be aware of any other announcements posted throughout the week.

The ethics course in Canvas is available to all students 24/7. Students are given ample time for, and advance notice of all coursework; therefore, make-up work is not permitted. It is important that each student fully understands that make-up work is not permitted in this class. Requests for special chances to make-up work will be denied. In the case of extreme unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstances, such as the death of an immediate family member, student hospitalization, etc. make-up work may be considered only if contact is made with the instructor and proper documentation is provided.

VI. Classroom Expectations:

1. **What are the Expectations for Professionalism in Class Communications?**
(Inbox, Email, Discussion Posts, Chat etc.)

2. **As a NC State Student, be it it online or hybrid, your conduct in this course is subject to [the NC State Student Code of Conduct](#).**
3. **As a future professional in your field, you will be expected to conduct yourself as a professional in this course in ALL work and communications** - be it assignments, discussion forums, Canvas Inbox, emails etc.
4. This includes but is not limited to:
5. **Being respectful of classmates' opinions, work and comments**
Ask yourself = Is this something I would/should say to a co-worker in person?
6. **Being respectful in communications with the instructor**
Ask yourself = Is this something I would/should say to my boss in the workplace?
7. **Being respectful of diversity**
Ask yourself = Is this a comment/joke that is at some other groups, ethnicity, political etc. expense?
Note: Offensive "jokes", slurs or [hate speech](#) will NOT be tolerated
8. **Using Non-Profane, Appropriate Language**
Ask yourself = Is this language you would use in the workplace?
9. **Using proper. NON-"Text speak" Language to make Yourself Easily Understood**
Ask yourself = Could my work supervisor understand what I have written?
10. **Failure to conduct yourself as a professional and meet standards above in this course will result in the following consequences** in this course:
11. **1st Instance** = Written warning from the instructor documenting issue
(No points deductions)
12. **2nd offense** = **Mandatory meeting** with the instructor and or Department Chair or Division Dean
(Related assignment/Participation subject to Point Deductions)
13. **3rd offense:** College Disciplinary procedures filed with the NC State Judicial Committee as a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.
(Course Grade subject to F)
14. **Extreme or repeated unprofessional behavior will result in initiating college disciplinary procedures** as outlined in [the NC State Student Code of Conduct](#). NCSC Disciplinary hearings can result in a variety of consequences, including and up to suspension or being expelled from the college.
15. Some Helpful Resources:
16. [University Etiquette 101: How to Deal with Your Professors](#)
17. [Why is my Prof Annoyed with Me? -- Expectations for Classroom Presence](#)
18. [Email Etiquette for Students](#) In general, act like a college student in order to be treated as a college student.

19. **How Much Interaction Will be Required Here?** Weekly interaction consists of participating in discussion boards with peers.

20. You will be **required to interact with your classmates** in this course as follows:

21. Discussion Texts

22. You will be **required to interact with myself as your Instructor** as follows:

23. Email me if you are contemplating dropping the class

24. Email me if an assignment may be late.

25. Email me if you are having difficulties with course materials or other related questions.

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism

Cheating is not necessary, nor will it be tolerated. I care about your success in the course and the integrity of the coursework.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) ChatGPT or other generative AI are not permitted for quizzes or the final exam. Use ChatGPT or other generative AI for brainstorming ideas or learning more about a topic but should not be used as text within any assignment. All assignments should be the student's own words. A random selection of assignments may be used to identify AI generated detection and if the detection is positive, the instructor will contact you with further instructions. AI generated detection is plagiarism, and a zero grade may be given.

Cheating will result in failure of the assignment and could possibly result in failure of the course and per college student conduct procedures, which may result in dismissal from the college.

If you are having difficulty with understanding and learning the course materials, please contact me early so that we can work together on a development plan for success.

Late Assignment Policy

Important: All assignments are due by the last day of the module week.

A 10% late penalty is applied to all late work (subject to the discretion of the instructor – student must contact the instructor).

The module week gives sufficient time to complete all assignments and activities. Engage in the course early in the week to finish the module activities and assignments by the due date.

NOTE: Technical malfunctions will not be accepted as an automatic excuse for late work. Part of success online and as a professional is to be prepared.

General Turn Around Time for Work Being Graded?

Assignments will be graded and feedback provided within seven to ten calendar days after the last day of the module week.

Review the [Code of Student Conduct](#). and [Academic Honesty](#).

Always conduct yourself as a college student, including interactions with your peers in discussion boards. I will take each case separately for consideration.

Course Number: PHIL 1110
Semester / Session: Spring 2026

Course Title: Introduction to Ethics
Start / End Date: 03/16/26 – 05/08/2026