

Term: Fall 2010

Course Title: PHIL. 2023- Ethics

Course PHIL. **Course** 2023 **Section** PO 4
Prefix: **No.:** **No.:**

Department of | **Division of Social Work, Behavioral and Political Sciences** | **College of** | **Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences**

Instructor Name: *Paul R. Shockley*
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| Prairie View, TX 77446

Office Hours: | **To be determined but it will be on Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays**

Virtual Office Hours: | N/A

Course Location: | *BNKS 211 (W.R. Banks Bldg)*
Class Meeting Days & Times: | **MWF: 9:00am-9:50am**

Catalog Description: | Combines the philosophical study of normative ethics with the study of contemporary applied ethics through examination of a number of tendencies and schools of ethics from various cultures, societies, and historical periods. The aim of the course is to enhance the students' awareness and sensitivity to the perplexity of the normality and the moral life.

Prerequisite | N/A

S:
Co-requisites: | N/A

Required Text: | Text: Daniel Bonevac, *Today's Moral Issues: Classic and Contemporary Perspectives*, Boston: McGraw/Hill, 6th edition. Customized text for Prairie View A & M University, McGraw-Hill, ISBN - 9780077996895

Recommended | **None.**

Text/Readings:

Access to Learning Resources:

PVAMU Library:
phone: (936) 261-1500;
web: <http://www.tamu.edu/pvamu/library/>
University Bookstore:
phone: (936) 261-1990;
web: <https://www.bkstr.com/Home/10001-10734-1?demoKey=d>

Course Goals or Overview:

The goal of this course is develop the student's problem-solving skill and critical thinking skills by providing a context for moral and ethical analysis through the examination of the history of ethical development, through the examination of ethical and moral theories, and through the study examination of various methodologies utilized in applied ethics.

Course Outcomes/Objectives

At the end of this course, the student will

- 1 Be able to recognize and apply basic reasoning within ethical contexts.
- 2 Be able to Be able to describe selected theories with meta-ethics and normative ethics, as well as select against those theories.
- 3 Demonstrate insight into one's ethical approach to moral decision-making in reference normative ethical theory.
- 4 Define key concepts and terms associated ethical reasoning and ethical theory.
- 5 Be able to summarize the contribution of historically significant figures in the field of moral philosophy/ethics.
- 6 Identify major models of ethics such as Kantian Moral Theory, Utilitarianism, Divine Command Ethics, and Virtue Ethics.

Course Requirements & Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Exams – written tests designed to measure knowledge of presented course material

Quizzes – Surprise Reading quizzes over required readings designed to supplement and reinforce course material.

Reading Assignments – daily readings designed to supplement and reinforce course material.

Class Participation – daily attendance and participation in class discussions

Grading Matrix

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
4 Major Examinations	20%	80
Reading Assignments/Quizzes	10%	10
Class Participation	10%	10
Total:		100

Grade Determination:

Examinations 80%

Reading Assignments/Quizzes 10%

Class Participation/Dialogue 10%

Course Procedures

Periodic Extra Credit Opportunities

The Professor MAY provide Periodic or Occasional Extra Credit Assignments during the semester. These assignments will be essay in format and should be constructed according to the following guidelines: Each assignment should be no more and no less than one page in length, single spaced, 10 Point Times New Roman Font with one inch top, bottom, left and right margins. The top line of the page should include the following information: the student's name, the class and class section, and the topic of the assignment. The assignment should consist of two paragraphs. The first paragraph should present a description of the article or material assignment and the second paragraph should present an analysis of the article or material assigned. These extra credit opportunities will be RARE during the semester and will be graded on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being the minimum and five being the maximum grade. These points will be added to the student's next scheduled major examination. These points WILL NOT be added to the students quiz average. These extra credit opportunities will be due at the time indicated by the Professor when the assignment is made and WILL NOT be accepted at a later date for any reason. The assignment must be handed to the Professor at the beginning of class on the date in which the assignment is due and WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY EMAIL.

Formatting Documents:

Microsoft Word is the standard word processing tool used at PVAMU. If you're using other word processors, be sure to use the "save as" tool and save the document in either the Microsoft Word, Rich-Text, or plain text format.

Exam Policy

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations or quizzes will be allowed except under documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).

Each examination will consist of 50 Multiple Choice Questions based upon class lectures and class readings from the textbook. Make up examinations will be give only for UNIVERSITY EXCUSED ABSENCES. Failure to present a university excused absence to the Professor will result in a grade of failure for the Major Examination. Each major examination will be worth 20% of the student's final grade.

The student is responsible to complete all reading assignments as indicated by the course syllabus. Reading assignments are correlated with class lecture topics. In addition, reading assignment material will also be included in the major examinations and pop quizzes. The completion of all reading assignments by the student will constitute 10% of the student's semester grade. It is your responsibility to be present for all quizzes. No make-up quizzes will be given.

Class Participation/Discussion

The class schedule and lecture topics lend themselves particularly to class dialogue and interaction. The Professor based upon the student's voluntary participation as well as by the Professor calling upon individual students during the class will orchestrate class discussion. Class discussion and dialogue should be informed participation based upon the class lecture and the assigned reading material for the day. The student's semester class participation/dialogue average will constitute 10% of the student's semester grade.

EXTRA NOTES:

16 WEEK CALENDAR:

TMI = Today's Moral Issues

ELN = Ethics Lecture Notes

SEP: Stanford Dictionary of Philosophy

IEP – Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy

Week One: *Introduction to Ethics*

Chapter (s): 8/30 *TMI: Introduction: Moral Arguments, pp. 1-6*

Assignment (s): *Answer this question: What is Ethics? What are the major divisions?*
Understand Major Presocratic Figures & Ideas

Week Two: Topic: Ancient Greek Ethics

Chapter (s): SEP: Socrates

Assignment (s): What is Virtue?

Week Three: Topic: Plato

Chapter (s): SEP: Plato

Assignment (s): **Topic: What is Virtue?**

Week Four: Aristotle

Chapter (s): SEP: Aristotle

Assignment (s): What is Virtue? What is a Habit? What is Phronesis? What is Eudaimonia?

Week Five: Topic: Epicureanism

Chapter (s): SEP: Epicureanism

Assignment (s): What is Epicureanism?

Week Six: Topic: Stoicism

Chapter (s): SEP: Stoicism

Assignment (s): What is Stoicism?

Week Seven: Topic: Skepticism

Chapter (s): SEP: Skepticism

Assignment (s): What is Skepticism?

Week Eight: Topic: Augustine and Aquinas

Chapter (s): SEP: Augustine and Aquinas

Assignment (s): What is Augustine's contribution to ethics? What is Aquinas' contribution to ethics?

Mid-Term Exam

Week Nine: Topic: Kantian Ethics

Chapter (s): SEP: Immanuel Kant

Assignment (s): What is Kant's contribution to ethics?

Week Ten: Topic: Deontological Ethics

Chapter (s): SEP: Deontological Ethics

Assignment (s): What is Deontological Ethics?

Week Eleven: Topic: Kantian Ethics

Chapter (s): SEP, The Categorical Imperative

Assignment (s): What is the Categorical Imperative?

Week Twelve: Topic: John Stuart Mill

Chapter (s): SEP: Utilitarianism

Assignment (s): What is Mill's contribution to ethics?

Week Thirteen: Topic: Jeremy Bentham

Chapter (s): SEP: Jeremy Bentham
Assignment (s): What is Bentham's Calculus for Utilitarianism?
Week Fourteen: **Applied Ethics**
Topic
Chapter (s): **TMI, The Death Penalty; SEP: Punishment**
Assignment (s): **To be determined.**
Week Fifteen: **Applied Ethics:**
Chapter (s): **TMI: Justice/Equality; SEP: Justice Citizenship**
Assignment (s): **To be determined**

Week Sixteen

Final Exam

Important End of Semester Dates

12/7: last class day for Fall 2010 Semester

12/8-9: Study Days for Exams

12/10-15: Final Examination Period

12/15 Final Grades Due for Graduates

12/18: Commencement

12/21: Final Grades Due For All Other Students

Detailed Topical Schedule: Philosophy 2023 (Ethics)

Topic Readings and Videos

TMI = Today's Moral Issues

ELN = Ethics Lecture Notes

SEP = Stanford Dictionary Of Philosophy Online

IEP = Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy

8/30	Classes Begin; TDM: Introduction: Moral Arguments, p. 1-6
9/1	What is Ethics?
9/3	What is Ethics?
9/6	Holiday
9/8	Student Assembly
9/10	Ancient Greek Ethics ELN, p. 1; SEP, Socrates
9/13	Ancient Greek Ethics ELN, p. 1; SEP, Plato
9/15	Ancient Greek Ethics ELN, p. 1; SEP, Aristotle
9/17	Epicureanism; ELN, p. 2; SEP, Epicureanism
9/20	Stoicism; ELN, p. 4; SEP, Stoicism
9/22	Skepticism; ELN, p. 3, 4; SEP, Stoicism
9/24	Augustine; ELN, p. 4-6; SEP, Augustine
9/27	Aquinas; ELN, p. 6-8; SEP, Aquinas
9/29	Aquinas; ELN, p. 6-8; SEP, Aquinas
10/1	Aquinas
10/4	Exam 1
10/6	Kantian Ethics; TMI: Kant, 27-38; ELN, The Categorical Imperative, 10-11; SEP, Immanuel Kant
10/8	Kantian Ethics; TMI: Roger Scruton, Sexual Desire, 76-79; ELN, The Categorical Imperative, 10-11
10/11	Kantian Ethics; TMI, Peter Singer, Animal Liberation, 84-90; ELN, The Categorical Imperative, 10-11
10/13	Utilitarianism; TMI, Liberty, 127-128; Mill, On Liberty, 138-14; ELN, Utilitarianism, 12-13;
10/15	Utilitarianism; TMI, Wilson, Against the Legalization of Drugs, 160-168; ELN, Utilitarianism, 12-13
10/18	Utilitarianism; TMI, Burger-Douglas, Miller v. California, 169-174; ELN, Utilitarianism, 12-13
10/20	Natural Law Ethics TMI, Roberts-Stevens, Morse v. Frederick, 218-227
10/22	Mid Term Exam 2
10/25	Virtue Ethics; TMI, Blackmun, Roe v. Wade, 262-266; ELN, 28-29; SEP, Virtue Ethics
10/27	Anti Ethics; ELN, Nietzsche, 34-36; SEP, Nietzsche
10/29	Anti Ethics; ELN, Nietzsche, 34-36; SEP, Nietzsche's Moral and Political Philosophy

11/1	Anti Ethics; ELN, Nietzsche, 34-36; SEP, Moral Relativism
11/3	Anti Ethics; ELN, Nietzsche, 34-36; SEP, A. J. Ayer
11/5	Anti Ethics; ELN, Nietzsche; SEP, Feminist Ethics
11/8	Anti Ethics; ELN, Existentialism, 32; SEP, Existentialism
11/10	Anti Ethics; ELN, Moore and Hume, 32-34; SEP, George Edward Moore
11/12	Anti Ethics; ELN, Moore and Hume, 32-34; SEP, David Hume's Moral Philosophy
11/15	Exam 3
11/17	Applied Ethics; TMI, Van Den Haag, The Death Penalty
11/19	Applied Ethics; TMI, Bedau, The Death Penalty: Against, 359-365; SEP, Punishment
11/22	Applied Ethics; TMI, Kennedy and Scalia, Boumediene v. Bush et al., 417-427; SEP Rights
11/24	Applied Ethics; TMI, Justice/Equality, 429-430; Rousseau, Social Contract, 454-457
11/25-26	Thanksgiving Holiday
11/29	Applied Ethics; TMI, Dworkin, Liberalism, 499-504; SEP, Citizenship
12/1	Applied Ethics; TMI, Warren, Brown v. Board of Education, 519-521; SEP, Civil Rights
12/3	Applied Ethics; TMI, O'Connor, Bollinger et al., 563-571; SEP, Affirmative Action
12/6	Course Review Day
12/8-9	Study Days for Exams
12/10-15	Exam 4 Final Exam Period
12/15	Graduating Seniors Grades Due
12/18	Commencement
12/21	All Other Grades Due

University Rules and Procedures

Disability statement (See Student Handbook):

Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in class should register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal laws, a student requesting special accommodations must provide documentation of their disability to the SSD coordinator.

Academic misconduct (See Student Handbook):

You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

Forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.
2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing

any part of a scheduled test.

3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else's words, ideas, or data as one's own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one's own work also constitutes plagiarism.

Nonacademic misconduct (See Student Handbook):

The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor's ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

Sexual misconduct (See Student Handbook):

Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Attendance Policy:

Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Excessive absences will result in lowered grades. Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student's course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of "F". Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class.

Student Academic Appeals Process:

Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

Technical Considerations for Online and Web-Assist Courses

Minimum Hardware and Software Requirements:

- Pentium with Windows XP or PowerMac with OS 9
- 56K modem or network access
- Internet provider with SLIP or PPP
- 8X or greater CD-ROM

- 64MB RAM
- Hard drive with 40MB available space
- 15" monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/speakers
- Microphone and recording software
- Keyboard & mouse
- Netscape Communicator ver. 4.61 or Microsoft Internet Explorer ver. 5.0 /plug-ins
- Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:
 - Sending and receiving email
 - A working knowledge of the Internet
 - Proficiency in Microsoft Word
 - Proficiency in the Acrobat PDF Reader
 - Basic knowledge of Windows or Mac O.S.

Netiquette (online etiquette): students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats when directed to do so. Students are to be respectful and courteous to others in the discussions. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated. When referring to information from books, websites or articles, please use APA standards to reference sources.

Technical Support: Students should call the Prairie View A&M University Helpdesk at 936-261-2525 for technical issues with accessing your online course. The helpdesk is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week. For other technical questions regarding your online course, call the Office of Distance Learning at 936-261-3290 or 936-261-3282

Communication Expectations and Standards:

All emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor within 48 hours.

You can send email anytime that is convenient to you, but I check my email messages continuously during the day throughout the work-week (Monday through Friday). I will respond to email messages during the work-week by the close of business (5:00 pm) on the day following *my receipt* of them. Emails that I receive on Friday will be responded to by the close of business on the following Monday.

Submission of Assignments:

Assignments, Papers, Exercises, and Projects will be distributed and submitted through your online course. Directions for accessing your online course will be provided. Additional assistance can be obtained from the Office of Distance Learning.

Discussion Requirement:

Because this is an online course, there will be no required face-to-face meetings on campus. However, we will participate in conversations about the readings, lectures, materials, and other aspects of the course in a true seminar fashion. We will accomplish this by use of the discussion board.

Students are required to log-on to the course website often to participate in discussion. It is strongly advised that you check the discussion area daily to keep abreast of discussions. When a

topic is posted, everyone is required to participate. The exact use of discussion will be determined by the instructor.

It is strongly suggested that students type their discussion postings in a word processing application and save it to their PC or a removable drive before posting to the discussion board. This is important for two reasons: 1) If for some reason your discussion responses are lost in your online course, you will have another copy; 2) Grammatical errors can be greatly minimized by the use of the spell-and-grammar check functions in word processing applications. Once the post(s) have been typed and corrected in the word processing application, it should be copied and pasted to the discussion board.

College of Arts and Sciences Student & Staff Aspiration Statement

The faculty and staff of the College of Arts and Sciences at PVAMU are committed to providing the best possible quality education to its students. To that end, we will work hard to prepare the students for success by setting the proper academic environment and background necessary to facilitate learning. In order for us to be successful, there are some basic expectations our students must demonstrate. These expectations are a simple ingredient to foster camaraderie and '*esprit de corps*' in every class and classroom on campus. Additionally, these are lifelong fundamental learning skills to better prepare students for success in America's job market.

CAS student expectations:

You are expected to come to class prepared and on time.

Higher education is an investment in your future, to that end; you must endeavor to be properly equipped for class. (i.e. School supplies, text, and other supporting materials).

Resolution of any classroom issues (i.e. Grades, course materials, etc) should begin with the instructor.

If you must leave early, notify the instructor before the class begins, sit by the door, and exit quietly. Be considerate of your fellow classmates; please turn off all phones, pagers and other electronic devices.

Do not talk to other students during lecture. If you have a question or a comment on the subject being discussed, address it to the instructor directly.

Walk quietly through the hallways, classes in other rooms may still be in session.

Please refrain from eating, drinking, sleeping in class, using profanity, and engaging in any form of horseplay in the classroom it is disruptive to your fellow classmates.

Be respectful, civil, polite and considerate when dealing with you professors as well as your fellow classmates.

Student attire is based on personal preference and taste. The rule of thumb is simple, if it projects a statement which is offensive to others, then maturity should dictate that it is probably not a good

idea to wear in class.

Enthusiasm is infectious, a smile and positive attitude will go far to motivate and charge your professors and fellow classmates.

How to do well in this class:

Carefully read assigned books. Bombard your assigned readings with the following questions: why, where, what, when, who, and so what?

Consider making an outline of the major units of thought in your readings. As you formulate your outline from the reading, ask yourself the following question: "What do I see?" The more observations you make, the better your interpretation of the author's position or claim may be. Afterwards ask, "What does it mean?"

After you outline the author's position/claim go back and see what arguments are being provided to support that position or claim. Keep asking yourself, "What is the issue?" Then consider what objections can be raised against that issue, position, or claim. Lastly, what replies can be given to defend the position or claim against these objections?

You should consult with me as often as possible to make sure you are understanding the material. Do not wait until the day before a test to begin studying. This is not the kind of course for which you can cram and expect to do well. Take advantage of the office hours.

Consider forming study groups to prepare for quizzes and exams.

Make sure you are able to contact another student for lecture material in case you happen to miss a class.

Ten Strategies for First-Rate Studying:

- Read Thoughtfully
- Read Repeatedly
- Read Patiently
- Read Reflectively
- Read Meditatively
- Read Selectively
- Read Imaginatively
- Read Purposefully
- Read Acquisitively
- Read Telescopically