



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

I. GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Subject and Number: Philosophy 103
Descriptive Title: Ethics and Society
Course Disciplines: Philosophy
Division: Behavioral and Social Sciences

Catalog Description:

This course offers a critical study of the major ethical theories and their application to contemporary moral issues, such as abortion, the death penalty, poverty, war, and euthanasia.

Conditions of Enrollment:

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for English 1A

Course Length:	X Full Term	Other (Specify number of weeks):
Hours Lecture:	3.00 hours per week	TBA
Hours Laboratory:	hours per week	TBA
Course Units:	3.00	

Grading Method: Letter
Credit Status: Associate Degree Credit

Transfer CSU: X Effective Date: Prior to July 1992
Transfer UC: X Effective Date: Prior to July 1992

General Education:

El Camino College:

CSU GE:

IGETC:

II. OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES

A. COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (The course student learning outcomes are listed below, along with a representative assessment method for each. Student learning outcomes are not subject to review, revision or approval by the College Curriculum Committee)

1. Students will be able to identify the primary moral theories, including Kantian duty ethics, Utilitarianism, and Virtue Ethics, distinguish the primary difference between the theories, and evaluate the strengths and weakness of each theory.
2. Students will be able to apply moral theories, including those of Utilitarianism, Kantian duty ethics, and Virtue Ethics to contemporary moral issues.
3. Students will be able to critically evaluate facts and arguments of both sides of contemporary moral issues.

The above SLOs were the most recent available SLOs at the time of course review. For the most current SLO statements, visit the El Camino College SLO webpage at <http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/slo/>.

B. Course Student Learning Objectives (The major learning objective for students enrolled in this course are listed below, along with a representative assessment method for each)

1. Explain and discuss the major components of the primary moral theories, including utilitarianism, Kant's absolutist duty ethics, virtue ethics, and social contract theory.
 - Multiple Choice
2. Analyze and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each of the primary moral theories.
 - Essay exams
3. Specifically distinguish teleological (consequentialist) ethics from deontological ethics.
 - Multiple Choice
4. Apply the primary moral theories to various contemporary moral issues.
 - Essay exams
5. Analyze and evaluate the evidence, facts, and arguments on the competing sides of various contemporary issues such as abortion, the death penalty, poverty, war, and euthanasia.
 - Essay exams
6. Discuss the competing arguments regarding whether moral values are relative to individuals and/or cultures or countries, or rather, are objective and universally applicable.
 - Multiple Choice
7. Explain and analyze possible female perspectives on morality, such as an ethics of care, and the advantages and disadvantages of such an ethics compared to the primary moral theories which have been propounded by men.
 - Essay exams
8. Differentiate and evaluate various theories of social justice and the proper role of government, such as Rawl's social contract theory, Libertarianism, Paternalism, and Mill's views on the limits of government intrusions into personal lives.
 - Multiple Choice

III. OUTLINE OF SUBJECT MATTER (Topics are detailed enough to enable a qualified instructor to determine the major areas that should be covered as well as ensure consistency from instructor to instructor and semester to semester.)

Lecture or Lab	Approximate Hours	Topic Number	Major Topic
Lecture	3	I	Meaning and Nature of Ethics A. Major Areas of Philosophy B. Relationship of Ethics to Metaphysics and Epistemology C. Why We Need Ethics D. Differentiate a Philosophical Approach from a Religious Approach
Lecture	3	II	Utilitarianism A. A Type of Consequentialism B. Major Components C. Differentiate from Other Ethical Theories D. Strengths and Weaknesses
Lecture	3	III	Kant's Deontological Ethics A. Moral Worth B. The Categorical Imperative C. Differentiate from Consequentialism D. Strengths and Weaknesses
Lecture	3	IV	Aristotle's Virtue Ethics A. Components of the Theory B. Differentiate from Consequentialist and Deontological Ethics C. Strengths and Weaknesses
Lecture	3	V	Rawls' Social Contract Theory A. Components of the Theory B. Differentiate from the Other Primary Theories C. Strengths and Weaknesses
Lecture	3	VI	Female Perspective on Ethics A. Ethics of Care B. Differentiate from the Primary (Male) Ethical Theories C. Strengths and Weaknesses
Lecture	2	VII	Moral Relativism Versus Moral Objectivism A. Define Each Term B. Strengths and Weaknesses of Each Position C. Examine Whether Some Issues are Morally Objective and Other Issues are Morally Relative
Lecture	5	VIII	The Environment A. Pollution B. Global Warming C. Apply the Primary Moral Theories to the Issue
Lecture	3	IX	The Death Penalty A. Retribution Versus Mistakenly Killing the Innocent B. Discriminatorily Applied?

			C. Deterrent Effect? D. Apply the Primary Ethical Theories
Lecture	3	X	Euthanasia A. Killing Versus Letting Die B. Physician Assisted Suicide C. Apply the Primary Ethical Theories
Lecture	3	XI	Moral Problems in War and Terrorism A. Just War Theory B. Pacifism C. The Justifications and Problems of Terrorism
Lecture	3	XII	Abortion A. What are the Attributes of a Fetus? B. What Values Divides those For and Against C. Pro-Choice Versus Pro-Life Arguments D, Apply the Moral Theories
Lecture	5	XIII	Ethical Treatment of Animals A. Factory Farming B. Is the Treatment Ethical? C. Is Killing Animals to Eat Them Moral? D. Apply Moral Theories
Lecture	3	XIV	Legalization of Drugs A. The Benefits and Harms of Drugs B. Marijuana C. Other Drugs D. Apply Moral Theory
Lecture	3	XV	Poverty A. Obligations of Individuals B. Obligations of Wealthy Countries to Poor Countries C. Apply Moral Theories
Lecture	6	XVI	Paternalism Versus Libertarianism A. Apply these Theories to Drug Legalization B. Apply these Theories to Health Care
Total Lecture Hours		54	
Total Laboratory Hours		0	
Total Hours		54	

IV. PRIMARY METHOD OF EVALUATION AND SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS

A. PRIMARY METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Substantial writing assignments

B. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENT USING PRIMARY METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Read the assigned article by Peter Singer entitled "Famine, Affluence and Morality." In a two- to four-page essay, identify and analyze the deontological and consequentialist arguments used in the article to support his position. Which argument do you find most persuasive? Why?

C. COLLEGE-LEVEL CRITICAL THINKING ASSIGNMENTS:

1. In the video on terrorism, a panel of world leaders discussed the ethical issues involved in state-sanctioned assassination, freedom of the press, and negotiation with terrorists. In a three- to five-page essay, identify the ethical theory/theories used by each participant on the panel. Be sure to preface your answer with a detailed description of the ethical theories you have identified.
2. In a three- to five-page essay, analyze the political structure of the United States and explain why the United States would not be considered a just society according to Plato's idea of justice.

D. OTHER TYPICAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION METHODS:

Essay exams
Written homework
Term or other papers
Multiple Choice
Completion
True/False

V. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Discussion
Lecture
Multimedia presentations

Note: In compliance with Board Policies 1600 and 3410, Title 5 California Code of Regulations, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Sections 504 and 508 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, instruction delivery shall provide access, full inclusion, and effective communication for students with disabilities.

VI. WORK OUTSIDE OF CLASS

Study
Answer questions
Required reading
Problem solving activities
Written work

Estimated Independent Study Hours per Week: 6

VII. TEXTS AND MATERIALS

A. UP-TO-DATE REPRESENTATIVE TEXTBOOKS

Lewis Vaughn. Contemporary Moral Arguments: Readings in Ethical Issues. 2nd ed. Oxford University Press, 2013.

Russ Shafer-Landau. The Fundamentals of Ethics. 3rd ed. Oxford University Press, 2014.

B. ALTERNATIVE TEXTBOOKS

C. REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

D. OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS

VIII. CONDITIONS OF ENROLLMENT

A. Requisites (Course and Non-Course Prerequisites and Corequisites)

Requisites	Category and Justification
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B. Requisite Skills

Requisite Skills

C. Recommended Preparations (Course and Non-Course)

Recommended Preparation	Category and Justification
Non-Course Recommended Preparation Eligibility for English 1A	Students need to be able to read and effectively analyze college level texts, and they need to be able to write a paper that persuasively supports their position.

D. Recommended Skills

Recommended Skills
<p>Students need to have effective reading skills to understand and interpret information provided in their textbooks.</p> <p>ENGL A - Read and apply critical thinking skills to college-level expository prose for the purposes of writing and discussion.</p> <p>ENGL 84 - Select and employ reading strategies to interpret the content of a college-level textbook, with special focus on constructing a thesis statement and providing valid support.</p> <p>ENGL A - Apply appropriate strategies in the writing process including prewriting, composing, revising, and editing techniques.</p>
<p>Writing is required for essay questions and papers assigned.</p> <p>ENGL A - Read and apply critical thinking skills to college-level expository prose for the purposes of writing and discussion.</p> <p>ENGL 84 - Select and employ reading strategies to interpret the content of a college-level textbook, with special focus on constructing a thesis statement and providing valid support.</p> <p>ENGL A - Apply appropriate strategies in the writing process including prewriting, composing, revising, and editing techniques.</p>

E. Enrollment Limitations

Enrollment Limitations and Category	Enrollment Limitations Impact
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Course created by John Forrest .

BOARD APPROVAL DATE:

LAST BOARD APPROVAL DATE: 05/16/2016

Last Reviewed and/or Revised by Randall Firestone on 03/08/2016