

Montgomery County Community College
 PHI 101
 Introduction to Ethics
 3-3-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to the history of the philosophical examination of ethics from ancient Greece through contemporary thought in Western Philosophy will be examined. Attention will also be given to non-Western ethical traditions (Confucianism, Buddhism, for example) that began even earlier than well-documented Western ethics. The substance of dominant varieties of objectivist views such as virtue ethics, utilitarianism, and deontological ethics will come under our scrutiny. Similar attention will be given to relativist/subjectivist opposition to these various objectivist views. An on-going focal point for all of the inquiries in the course will be the "debate" between supporters of objectivist views and supporters of "anti"-objectivist views as this "debate" has progressed through history. The course will also include discussion of the proper relation between the government and the diverse substantive ethical perspectives of individuals in a society such as the United States that is intentionally ethically pluralistic.

REQUISITES:

Previous Course Requirements

ENG 010A Basic Writing or ENG 011 Basic Writing II or ESL 011 ESL Basic Writing II

Concurrent Course Requirements

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Explain the competing general views of the nature of morality: objectivism; relativism; subjectivism.	Lecture Class Discussions Readings Debates Opinion Pieces Evaluations	Examinations Short Papers Essays Discussions
2. Explain the difference between anthropological relativism and moral relativism and explain the consequences of the fact of the former for views about the latter.	Lecture Class Discussions Readings Debates Opinion Pieces Evaluations	Examinations Short Papers Essays Discussions

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
3. Explain various objectivist views (both Western and non-Western), natural law ethics, divine command ethics, consequentialist ethics, deontological ethics, virtue ethics.	Lecture Class Discussions Readings Debates Opinion Pieces Evaluations	Examinations Short Papers Essays Discussions
4. Explain the various arguments for and the various arguments against each of the general views about the nature of morality and the arguments for and against various normative theories.	Lecture Class Discussions Readings Debates Opinion Pieces Evaluations	Examinations Short Papers Essays Discussions
5. Explain the dominant views of the proper relationship between morality and the law: Legal paternalism; legal moralism; legal libertarianism.	Lecture Class Discussions Readings Debates Opinion Pieces Evaluations	Examinations Short Papers Essays Discussions
6. Explain the important considerations in the discussion of the proper relation between theology-based ethics and an intentionally non-theocratic society.	Lecture Class Discussions Readings Debates Opinion Pieces Evaluations	Examinations Short Papers Essays Discussions
7. Explain the different arguments for the different sides of discussed controversies, and the primary objections to these arguments.	Lecture Class Discussions Readings Debates Opinion Pieces Evaluations	Examinations Short Papers Essays Discussions
8. Explain the major arguments in and the major objections to the "harm principle" in John Stuart Mill's <i>On Liberty</i> .	Lecture Class Discussions Readings Debates Opinion Pieces Evaluations	Examinations Short Papers Essays Discussions

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The

benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. Ethical Objectivism
2. Ethical Relativism
3. Ethical Subjectivism
4. Ethical Nihilism
5. Virtue Ethics
6. Consequentialist Ethics
7. Deontological Ethics
8. Theology-Based Ethics
9. Existentialist Ethics
10. Morality and the Law

LEARNING MATERIALS:

Doing Ethics: Moral Reasoning and Contemporary Issues, Fourth Edition, Lewis Vaughn, W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Benjamin F. Armstrong, Jr.	Date: 12/2009
Interim VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 6/20/2011
Revised by: Benjamin F. Armstrong, Jr.	Date: 6/2014
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 6/17/2014
Revised by: Benjamin F. Armstrong, Jr.	Date: 12/16/2017
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:	Date: 12/18/2017



This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.