

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: PHIL 7

Title: MORAL ISSUES

Full Title: Contemporary Moral Issues

Last Reviewed: 2/26/2024

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	6	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade or P/NP

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly:

Catalog Description:

An introduction to modern and classical moral theories and their application to selected contemporary moral issues such as euthanasia, abortion, animal rights, and privacy.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended Preparation:

Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:

Description: An introduction to modern and classical moral theories and their application to selected contemporary moral issues such as euthanasia, abortion, animal rights, and privacy. (Grade or P/NP)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.

Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

## **ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

<b>AS Degree:</b>	<b>Area</b>			Effective:	Inactive:
	E	Humanities		Fall 1981	
<b>CSU GE:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>			Effective:	Inactive:
	C2	Humanities		Fall 1981	
<b>IGETC:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>			Effective:	Inactive:
	3B	Humanities		Fall 1981	
<b>CSU Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:	
<b>UC Transfer:</b>	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:	

### **CID:**

CID Descriptor: PHIL 120 Introduction to Ethics  
SRJC Equivalent Course(s): PHIL7

### **Certificate/Major Applicable:**

Both Certificate and Major Applicable

## **COURSE CONTENT**

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Form well-reasoned judgments about philosophical arguments concerning moral issues.
2. Apply philosophical theories to current moral issues.

### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of basic concepts in ethics.
2. Describe, analyze, and evaluate moral theories.
3. Analyze and evaluate specific philosophical arguments involved in representative contemporary moral issues.
4. Compare, contrast, and evaluate the application of modern and classical moral theories to contemporary moral issues.

### **Topics and Scope:**

- I. Moral concepts
  - A. Moral values
  - B. Intrinsic and extrinsic values
  - C. Normative Ethics
  - D. Applied Ethics
  - E. Relativism and absolutism
  - F. Moral reasoning
  - G. Moral standing
- II. Moral theories, including:
  - A. Utilitarianism

- B. Contract theory
- C. Kantianism
- D. Natural Law Theory
- E. Moral rights
- F. Virtue ethics
- G. Other

### III. Factual background for representative moral issues

- A. Euthanasia
- B. Abortion
- C. Animal rights
- D. Privacy
- E. Capital Punishment
- F. War and terrorism
- G. Homosexuality
- H. Hate speech
- I. Other

### IV. Philosophical theories and arguments involved in representative moral issues

- A. Natural law as applied to homosexuality
- B. Right to life as applied to abortion
- C. Justice as applied to capital punishment
- D. Just War Theory as applied to war and terrorism
- E. Harm Principle as applied to animal rights
- F. Utilitarianism as applied to animal rights
- G. Other

### Assignment:

1. Reading assignments of approximately 20 pages per week from course texts and supplementary materials
2. Quizzes based on the reading assignments (5 - 15)
3. Take-home or in-class essay exams (2 - 17)
4. Term paper on a moral issue of at least 1250 words
5. Final examination typically includes multiple choice, short answer, in-class or take-home essay

### Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

**Writing:** Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Term papers and written papers

Writing  
30 - 60%

**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

None

Problem solving  
0 - 0%

**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None

Skill Demonstrations  
0 - 0%

**Exams:** All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Quizzes, exams, and final examination that typically includes multiple choice, essay, or short essay

Exams  
30 - 60%

**Other:** Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Participation and attendance

Other Category  
10 - 20%

### **Representative Textbooks and Materials:**

Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Moral Issues. 14th ed. Sarris, Stephen. McGraw-Hill/Dushkin. 2015

The Elements of Moral Philosophy. 8th ed. Rachels, James and Rachels, Stuart. McGraw-Hill. 2014

The Right Thing to Do. 7th ed. Rachels, James and Rachels, Stuart. McGraw-Hill. 2014

Analyzing Moral Issues. 6th ed. Boss, Judith. McGraw-Hill. 2012 (classic)

Contemporary Moral Arguments: Readings in Moral Issues. 2 ed. Vaughn, Lewis. Oxford University Press. 2012 (classic)

Contemporary Moral Issues. 4th ed. Hinman, Lawrence. Prentice Hall. 2012 (classic)