PHIL 7 Course Outline as of Fall 2025

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:
Students will be introduced to moral theories and apply these theories to contemporary issues such as genetic engineering, capital punishment, artificial intelligence, war, sex work, economic justice, animal rights, and environmental duty.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended Preparation:
Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:
Description: Students will be introduced to moral theories and apply these theories to contemporary issues such as genetic engineering, capital punishment, artificial intelligence, war, sex work, economic justice, animal rights, and environmental duty. (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:

AS Degree:	**Area**		Effective:	Inactive:
	E	Humanities	Fall 2025	
	L3	Arts and Humanities		
	E	Humanities	Fall 1981	Fall 2025
CSU GE:	**Transfer Area**		Effective:	Inactive:
	C2	Humanities	Fall 1981	
IGETC:	**Transfer Area**		Effective:	Inactive:
	3B	Humanities	Fall 1981	

CSU Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:
UC Transfer:	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. Apply distinct moral theories to contemporary moral issues.
2. Construct original arguments about contemporary moral issues.
3. Evaluate arguments about contemporary moral issues.

Objectives:
At the conclusion of this course, the student should 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 status
II. Moral Theories
A. Utilitarianism
B. Contract theory
C. Deontology
D. Natural Law theory
E. Moral rights
F. Virtue ethics
G. Feminist ethics
H. Other
III. Factual Background for Representative Moral Issues
A. Euthanasia
B. Reproductive questions
C. Animal rights
D. Privacy
E. Capital Punishment
F. War and terrorism
G. Economic justice
H. Hate speech
I. Environmental duty/justice
J. Genetic engineering
K. Artificial intelligence
L. Other

Assignment:

1. Reading assignments from course texts and supplementary materials
2. Written papers: weekly journal or written reflection assignments
3. Quizzes based on the reading assignments
4. Take-home or in-class essay exams
5. Individual or group presentation(s)
6. Term paper on a moral issue of at least 1250 words
7. 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 paper 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.

Individual or group presentation(s)	Skill Demonstrations 0 - 20%

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

Quizzes, exams, and final examination	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:
Elements of Moral Philosophy. 10th ed. Rachels, James and Rachels, Stuart. McGraw Hill. 2023.
The Fundamentals of Ethics. 6th ed. Shafer-Landau, Russ. Oxford University Press. 2023.
Doing Ethics. 6th ed. Vaughn, Lewis. Norton. 2021.
Ethical Choices. 3rd ed. Burnor, Richard and Raley, Yvonne. Oxford University Press. 2021.

Introduction to Ethics: An Open Educational Resource. Levin, Noah. LibreTexts. https://human.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Philosophy/Book%3A_Introduction_to_Ethics_(Levin_et_al.) . (CC-BY). 2019 (classic).
Introduction to Ethical Studies: An Open Source Reader. Archie, Lee and Archie, John. https://philosophy.lander.edu/ethics/ethicsbook.pdf . (CC BY-SA). 2004. (classic).
Ethics for A-Level. Dimmock, Mark and Fisher, Andrew. LibreTexts. https://human.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Philosophy/Book%3A_Ethics_(Fisher_and_Dimmock) . (CC BY). 2017. (classic)
Introduction to Philosophy: Ethics. Matthews, George. Rebus Community. https://press.rebus.community/intro-to-phil-ethics/ . (CC BY) 2020. (classic)