

**NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE
INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS (PHI 2010)
FALL 2015**

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Enjoy thinking!

CALENDAR OF ASSIGNMENTS

Week	Topics & Reading Assignments	Due Dates
WHAT MAKES MORAL VALUES MORAL?		
Aug 19	Course introduction: Syllabus	
Aug 24	Cultural relativism: Rachels (747-754) Social contract: Hobbes (239-242)	(Aug 26: drop-add ends)
Aug 31	Social contract: Rawls (551-556; 559-561)	Sep 6: XC1 due
Sep 7	Might makes right: Melian Dialogue and Nietzsche (handouts)	(Sep 7: Labor Day) Sep 13: XC2 due
Sep 14	Moral instinct: Hume (276-287), Pinker (handout)	Sep 20: XC3 due
Sep 21	The morality dilemma: Plato's <i>Euthyphro</i> (5-16)	Oct 3: "moral values" posts due Oct 4: Exam 1 due
WHAT MAKES RIGHT ACTS RIGHT AND WRONG ACTS WRONG?		
Sep 28	What we owe others: Singer v. Arthur (873-892)	
Oct 5	Utilitarianism: Bentham (353, 359-361), Mill (364-369), Brandt (639-656)	Oct 11: XC4 due
Oct 12	Killing and letting die: Rachels v. Foot (863-872)	Oct 18: XC5 due
Oct 19	Deontology: Kant (316-321, 329-330, 333-334)	Oct 25: XC6 due
Oct 26	Prima facie duties: Ross (475-481)	(Oct 30: last day to withdraw) Nov 8: "right acts" posts due Nov 8: Exam 2 due
WHAT MAKES A GOOD PERSON GOOD?		
Nov 2	The meaning of life: Taylor (976-982)	Nov 8: Exam 2 due
Nov 9	Virtue: Aristotle (124-140)	(Nov 11: Veterans Day) Nov 15: XC7 due
Nov 16	The Stoic and Epicurean good life: Epicurus (178-183), Epictetus (203-214)	Nov 22: XC8 due
Nov 23	Justice v. care: Held (775-790)	(Nov 25-27: Thanksgiving)
Nov 30	Moral luck: Nagel (803-811), Sartre (441-447)	Dec 6: XC9 due Dec 7: "good person" posts and presentation comments due
Dec 7	Exam 3 in class	Exam 3: Dec 8 (TR class) and Dec 9 (MW class)

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

Course Requirements

- The course requirements are
 - Three exams, each worth 100 points.
 - An oral presentation, worth 60 points.
 - Participation in discussions on D2L, worth 40 points.
- Because this course satisfies Gordon Rule and Speaking-across-the-Curriculum requirements, you must complete all three exams and make the oral presentation.
- You may also submit up to nine extra credit papers, each worth 4 points.
- These requirements and extra credit opportunities are explained in this syllabus.

Grades

- There are 400 points available on exams, class discussions, and oral presentation. Each extra credit paper will add 4 points to points accumulated on the course requirements.
- Grades will be assigned on these percentages of the 370 points available on course requirements:
 - A: 90% and above, or 360 points and above
 - B: 80-89%; or 320-359 points
 - C: 70-79%, or 280-319 points
 - D: 60-69%, or 240-279 points
 - F: below 60%, or below 240 points.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND ADMINISTRATION

Course description

- Introduction to Ethics (PHI 2600) is about thinking for yourself about how we ought to live.
- You will study some of the greatest ideas ever about good and bad, right and wrong, just and unjust, in order to frame and resolve ethical issues for yourself.
- PHI 2600 is a three credit-hour course.

Instructor Information

- Dr. Charles Myers
- 729-6027 (office), 678-1971 (home)
- myersc@nwfsc.edu
- Room NV 100-123 (Room 123, Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville Campus)
- Office hours
 - Monday and Wednesday: 9:30-11, 2-2:30
 - Tuesday and Thursday: 9:30-12:30
 - By appointment

Course Materials

- The required text is Steven M. Cahn and Peter Markie, eds., *Ethics: History, Theory, and Contemporary Issues*, 5th ed., Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Assignments, handouts, and other materials are posted to D2L.
- There are many excellent resources on ethics on the internet. One of best sites for students is [Ethics Matters](#).

Course Goals and Objectives

- The course is organized around three questions:
 - **What makes moral values moral?**
 - **What makes right acts right and wrong acts wrong?**
 - **What makes a good person good?**
- The objectives of the course are:
 - To learn to frame ethical issues, bring conflicting answers to bear, and resolve the issues.
 - To learn some of the most powerful and useful ideas about the moral life.
- The broader goals of the course are:
 - To benefit from applying moral theories to real-world issues.
 - To develop lifelong interest in entertaining ideas about the joys and challenges of living a moral life.

Course Administration

- **D2L**
 - The syllabus, assignments, and other course materials are posted on the course [D2L](https://d2l.nwfsc.edu) website (<https://d2l.nwfsc.edu>).
 - Some class discussions take place on D2L.
 - You will take Exam 3 on D2L.
- **Turnitin**
 - Submit papers (Exam 1, Exam 2, and extra credit papers) to [Turnitin](http://www.turnitin.com) (www.turnitin.com).
 - Your **grades will be on Turnitin**, and grades will be assigned based on the point total calculated by Turnitin.
 - The **Turnitin class ID for your section is on D2L**. The Turnitin class enrollment password is: **think**.
 - See the “Papers: Exams and Extra Credit” section of this syllabus for more details about using Turnitin.
- **Email**
 - I will use NWFSC email or D2L to email you. Use your NWFSC email or D2L to email me.
 - For help with college email, call 729-5396 or email helpdesk@nwfsc.edu.
 - My goal is to respond to an email from you within one school day of receiving it. If you do not receive a response within a day, please email me again.

Withdrawing from the Course

- Please talk to me first before withdrawing because you are uncertain you can successfully complete the course. You may well have a better chance of succeeding in the course than you think.
- If you do decide to withdraw from the course, you must do so yourself. After reporting that a student has attended the course, instructors cannot withdraw a student.

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PAPERS: EXAMS AND EXTRA CREDIT

- There are three exams and also opportunities to write papers for extra credit.

Getting the Assignments

- Assignments for each of the exams will be posted on our D2L website.
- Instructions for extra credit opportunities are in the “Extra Credit” section of this syllabus.

Exams

- In the three exams you will review ideas we have studied and have the opportunity to learn more about them by applying them to a real-world case.
 - Exam 1 and Exam 2 are open-book, untimed, take-home essay exams that you will submit to Turnitin.com.
 - Exam 3 is an open-book timed exam you will take on D2L on the last day your class meets.
 - You must complete all three exams to complete the course.
- Your objective in the exams is to show that you **understand and can use ideas we studied**.
- You can write excellent exams using only the text and class materials. I encourage you to use other sources if you will learn more by doing so. **If you use sources other than our text and class materials, you must follow the directions for citations given below in “Academic Integrity: Documenting Sources.”**
- Usually the assignment is to apply ideas we studied to a newspaper article. It is impossible for any article to tell the whole story. Articles are incomplete and may be skewed. For the assignments, however, you may take the facts as presented in the article. You may do additional research on the subject of the article but are not required to do so.
- **Do not use long quotations.** Long quotations do not show how well you understand and can use ideas we studied.
- In general, the more details you explain about ideas we studied, the better. And the more details you use from the article you are writing about, the better.
- Be sure Turnitin’s word count for your paper meets the **minimum word count** requirement for the assignment. It may be unphilosophical to count words in a philosophy paper. But this is a Gordon Rule course in which students are expected to write a specified number of words. If an exam does not meet the minimum word count, I will return it to be rewritten and treat the rewritten paper as a late submission. If an extra credit paper does not meet the minimum word count, it will receive no credit.
- Turn in your take-home exams by the due date. I will accept Exam 1 and Exam 2 up to ten days after the due date with a penalty of 10% (one letter grade). You must take Exam 3 before the end of the term.

Extra Credit Papers

- Extra credit papers are graded on a pass-fail basis. If you address an assigned topic, follow the assigned format, and meet the minimum word requirement, you will receive credit.
- The “Extra Credit” section of this syllabus has instructions for the topics and format for extra credit papers.
- As with the exams, if you use sources other than our text and class materials, you must follow the directions in “Academic Integrity: Documenting Sources” below.
- Late extra credit papers will not be accepted.

Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation, etc.

- I mark errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc., and also make editing suggestions. I do not, however, deduct points for grammar. Your paper will of course make a better overall impression if you minimize errors by proofreading and editing your paper.

Academic Integrity: Documenting Sources

- Your papers must of course be your own work. But you can discuss your take-home exams and extra credit papers with anyone and use any materials to write them.
- **If you use anything to write a paper other than our text and class materials or if you receive substantial help writing your paper, you must say so in your paper.** Citing the sources you use does not weaken your paper. It is standard academic practice to cite any source you use or help you receive. If you fail to do so, you will not receive credit for the paper.
- If you quote from any source (including the text), use quotation marks. In a course like this, however, you will learn more and write better papers by putting ideas into your own words.
- **If you quote, paraphrase, or otherwise use a source other than to the text and class materials, use footnotes or parenthetical notes to identify the source.** Use any format you wish (APA, MLA, etc.). For internet sources, include the URL. For references to our text, it is enough to give page numbers in parentheses.

Using [Turnitin](#)

- Submit the first two exams and all extra credit papers to **Turnitin.com**.
 - If you already have a Turnitin profile, add this class to it. If you do not have a Turnitin profile, go to www.turnitin.com and click on the new user link.
 - Your section’s Turnitin **class ID is on D2L**. The class enrollment password is **think**.
 - Turnitin has tutorials at *Turnitin Student Training*).
 - Be sure you both “upload” and then “submit” your paper.

- Check **Turnitin's originality report and word count**
 - Turnitin's originality report will show a percentage that Turnitin calculates might not be your original work. Click on the icon to look at the originality report. Be sure you have not submitted material you found on the internet or elsewhere as if it were your own work. If you have created the appearance of plagiarism, correct your paper and resubmit it (which you can do up to the time the paper is due).
 - Also check Turnitin's calculation of your **word count**. I will use this word count to determine whether you have met the minimum word requirement for the paper.
- Review your graded paper
 - When I have graded an exam, I will post an announcement that you can find your grade and my comments on Turnitin. Click on the GradeMark "view" icon to open your paper.
 - Review comments I added in the body of your paper. On exams, also review the "rubric scorecard" where I evaluated sections of your exam.

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CLASS DISCUSSIONS

- D2L's discussions feature gives us the opportunity to continue our classroom discussions online. Participation in discussions on D2L is a course requirement worth a total of 40 points.
- Under "course topics" in "discussions," there are four topics: "what makes moral values moral," "what makes right acts right," "what makes a good person good," and "comments on Speaking-across-the-Curriculum presentations." Each of these topics is worth 10 points calculated this way:
 - If you make 2 or more contributions to a topic, you will receive 10 points.
 - If you make only one contribution to the topic, you will receive 5 points.
 - If you make no contributions to the topic, you will receive no points.
- The deadlines for making a contribution to each section are in the "schedule of assignments."
- Although you receive the maximum number of class discussions points for making only two contributions to each of the three topics, you will probably learn more and have more fun if make more contributions than that.
- Philosophical ethics is dialogue. It is persons talking to each other critically, energetically, and respectfully about things that really matter. That's what discussions in the classroom and on D2L are for. D2L discussions give us the change to follow on classroom discussions and to raise new questions.
- I will sometimes post messages on the discussions board to raise particular questions. But you can begin your own discussions without me. If you have questions about the ideas we are studying, post them in class discussions.
- Your contributions do not have to be lengthy, and your contributions do not have to be amazingly insightful. As we try out ideas, it is certain we will say some things we change our minds about later. Just keep the conversation going as we kick ideas around.
- An objective of this course is to think for yourself, and to do that we will use the Socratic method. No matter how good an idea sounds, no matter how many authorities say that's the way it is, and no matter how popular an idea it is, you should still think for yourself. Always be ready to ask of anything, "Yes, ... but what about ...?" So expect me and other students to challenge what you say. And you should challenge what others, including me, say. We test ideas by challenging them and seeing how well they stand up. Of course be sure the challenges are polite.

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SPEAKING-ACROSS-THE-CURRICULUM

- The speaking requirement is make an **oral presentation** in class.
 - Your presentation must be at least four minutes and should not exceed six minutes.
- **Topic.** Choose a topic from one of these three sources:
 - A post on the [Practical Ethics Blog](http://blog.practicaethics.ox.ac.uk/) (<http://blog.practicaethics.ox.ac.uk/>), or
 - At least five pages from our textbook that are **not assigned anywhere in the schedule of reading assignments**, or
 - A post on the blog [Socratically Speaking](http://www.socraticallyspeaking.com) (www.socraticallyspeaking.com).
- **Format.** Divide your presentation into two approximately equal parts.
 - **Explanation of topic.** In your own words, summarize and explain the Practical Ethics Blog post, textbook pages, or Socratically Speaking post.
 - **Real-world application.** Present your own conclusions about the topic. Do you agree or disagree with your topic's main points? Why? What difference, if any, does this topic make in the way we ought to live our lives or think about the world?
- **Outline.** Prepare a **written outline** for your presentation.
 - Put your name at the top of your outline and **specifically identify** the Practical Ethics Blog post, textbook pages, or Socratically Speaking post you will speak about.
 - Your outline should be an outline of your main points and not a script from which you read. You may use any outline format you prefer, but label the first part "Explanation of Topic" and the second part "Real-World Application."
 - **At least 24 hours before** your presentation upload your outline to "discussions" in D2L. Use the "start a new thread" option in the "Speaking-across-the-Curriculum Outlines" topic and copy your outline into your post or attach the outline to the post. The subject line of your new thread should be **your name and the topic of your presentation**.
- Your presentation will be **graded on these criteria**:
 - Compliance with these instructions : 15 points
 - Clarity and accuracy of your explanation of your topic: 15 points
 - Degree to which your discussion of real-world implications shows your understand the issues raised by your topic: 15 points
 - Overall impression your presentation makes: 15 points
- You may also submit an extra credit paper on the topic of your oral presentation. The paper must comply with requirements for extra credit papers.

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EXTRA CREDIT PAPERS

- **Instructions.**
 - Extra credit papers are optional. You may write all, some, or none.
 - There are nine opportunities to turn in an extra credit paper. In the syllabus and on Turnitin these opportunities are called XC1, XC2, XC3, and so on.
 - To take advantage of an extra credit opportunity, you must submit your paper to Turnitin by its due date on Turnitin and in the schedule of assignments.
 - The assignment is the same for all extra credit opportunities. The sources you may choose your topic from and the format you must use are explained below.
 - You get credit if you write at least 500 words and follow these directions for topic and format.
 - Each extra credit paper is worth 4 points. These points are added to the points you accumulate on exams, class discussions, and your oral presentation.
 - Learn something and have fun!
- **Topic.** Choose a topic from one of these three sources to write about.
 - A post on the [Practical Ethics Blog](http://blog.practicaethics.ox.ac.uk/) (<http://blog.practicaethics.ox.ac.uk/>), or
 - At least five pages from our textbook that are **not assigned anywhere in the schedule of reading assignments**, or
 - A post on the blog [Socratically Speaking](http://www.socraticallyspeaking.com) (www.socraticallyspeaking.com).
- **Format.** Write a paper of at least 500 words in this format.
 - Specifically identify the topic you are writing about: (a) the subject and author of the *Practical Ethics Blog* post, (b) the page numbers of a selection from the textbook, or (c) the title of a *Socratically Speaking* post.
 - **Explanation of topic.** In your own words, summarize and explain the *Practical Ethics* post, textbook pages, or *Socratically Speaking* post. This should be about half of your paper.
 - **Real-world application.** Present your own conclusions about the topic. Do you agree or disagree with your topic's main points? Why? What difference, if any, does this topic make in the way we ought to live our lives or think about the world? This should be about half of your paper.

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NWFSC POLICIES

- These policies are required or recommended for all NWFSC courses, but there will be differences among your courses. You should review the policies applicable to this course even if they seem familiar from your other courses.
- **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities.** If you have disabilities for which accommodations may be appropriate to assist you in this class, please contact the Office of Disability Support Services on the Niceville Campus, or call 729-6079.
- **Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Academic Integrity.** Students are responsible for adherence to all college policies and procedures, including those related to academic freedom, cheating, classroom conduct, computer/network/e-mail use and other items included in the *Northwest Florida State College Catalog and Student Handbook*. Students should be familiar with the rights and responsibilities detailed in the current *Northwest Florida State College Catalog and Student Handbook*. Plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty is a serious breach of student responsibilities and may trigger consequences which range from a failing grade to formal disciplinary action.
- **Turnitin.** Northwest Florida State College subscribes to *Turnitin*, an online plagiarism detection and prevention service. By enrolling in this class, you are consenting to upload your papers to *Turnitin*, where they will be checked for plagiarism. Papers submitted to *Turnitin* are saved as source documents within the *Turnitin* database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in other papers.
- **Videos.** This course may employ lecture capture software to provide you with videos of your instructor's lectures/PowerPoints/notes/demonstrations, etc., but you are not required to watch these. Also, students may upload their Speaking-across-the-Curriculum presentations as videos. These videos can be viewed with a standard Internet connection. If your home Internet connection is not adequate, please remember that any NWFSC open lab is available to you. You need only take your own headphones with you.
- **Social Networking Sites: Socratically Speaking.** [Socratically Speaking](#) is a blog where I post links to online items I think you will find interesting and helpful in connection with topics studied in this course. Participation in this site is optional and not a required element of the class. All required course information will be presented on D2L and by email. The instructor takes careful precautions to safeguard students on the internet; however, as with many internet interactions, risks still exist. By choosing to participate in the class's social networking site, you accept responsibility for the information you post and assume the risks associated with social networking sites.
- **Changes.** In the event of unusual or extraordinary circumstances, the schedule, requirements, and procedures in this course are subject to change. In such cases, students will be provided with written notice sufficient to plan for and accommodate the changes. If changes to graded activities are required, students will not be penalized as a result of the adjustments but will be responsible for meeting revised deadlines and course requirements.
- **Class Attendance.** Students should attend all of their classes because attendance is one of the strongest predictors of success. This class involves class discussions, and you will not benefit from these discussions or contribute to the class as a whole if you have

excessive absences. If you miss more than six classes, there may be a penalty of up to 10% on your final course grade.

- **Incomplete Grades.** At the discretion of the instructor, an incomplete grade (“I”) may be awarded when the student is unable to finish the required work because of *unforeseen extenuating circumstances* such as illness or TDY assignment. To receive an “I” grade, the student *must have successfully completed a significant portion of the required coursework* (at least two of the three exams) and be able to finish the remaining work without attending class. An “I” grade will automatically convert to a grade of “F” if the student does not complete the remainder of the coursework by the established deadline.

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