



NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

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INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

- Professor: L. Dean Allen, Ph.D.
- Email: AllenL14@nwfsc.edu
- Phone: 850-729-6027. Please use email as primary communication during Summer 2026.
- Office Hours: By appointment.
- Office Location (Campus/Building/Room): Niceville Campus, Building 100 (Mattie Kelly Arts Center), Office 123

INSTRUCTOR COMMUNICATION

Your NWFSC email is the official communication medium of the College. Please check your College email regularly for any class and College notifications. When you communicate with the instructor via e-mail, you should expect a reply within twenty-four business hours. If you have not received a reply or are feeling anxious about something, please contact me again via e-mail or telephone. I am eager to answer your questions as quickly as possible.

COURSE INFORMATION

- Course Name and Number: PHI 2600 L01, Introduction to Ethics (30085)
- Class Location (Campus/Building/Room): Online
- Class Modality: Online
- Class Days: Online – May 13, 2026 – August 5, 2026 (Session 1)
- Class Times: Online
- Online Classroom with Gradebook: [Canvas class shell](#)
- Final Exam: See “Course Schedule” document on the course website.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ways to frame and resolve ethical issues are studied. Major historical theories including consequentialism, deontology, and virtue ethics are presented in moral arguments and narratives. Course readings will be derived from the western canon. In addition and to the extent possible, the course will provide instruction on the historical background and philosophical foundation of western civilization and the American democracy.

COURSE-LEVEL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course is organized around four major topics:

1. Distinction between Ethics and Morality.
2. Quadrilateral Sources for Ethical Reflection.
3. Modes of Ethical Reasoning.
4. Ethical Reflection on Contemporary Issues.

After successfully completing the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate accurate and effective writing skills.
- Demonstrate effective oral communication skills.
- Define ethics and morality.
- Describe major sources for ethical reflection, decision, and action.
- Engage moral issues, reflect ethically on issues, and act in ways informed by their ethical reflection.
- Share their ethical reflection with others.
- Evaluate moral positions and actions taken by others and themselves.
- Benefit from applying ethical reflection to real-world issues.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

A passing score on the standardized placement test measuring communications/verbal/reading achievement, successful completion of any required developmental English and Reading coursework with a grade of “C” or better, or exemption from placement testing.

COURSE MATERIALS

The textbook is available at no charge on our course website. The text is *Introduction to Philosophy: Ethics*, edited by George Matthews and Christina Hendricks, Rebus Community, 2019. The original is freely available under the terms of the CC by 4.0 license at <https://press.rebus.community/intro-to-phil-ethics/>.

Throughout the course, there may be additional materials, handouts, or online resources.

ASSIGNMENTS, GRADING SCHEME AND PROCEDURES

Final course grades will be determined using the following percentages for assignments:

20% Participation and Contributions to Online Discussions

5% Moral Dilemma – Topic

10% Moral Dilemma – Before Paper

15% Moral Dilemma – After Paper

20% Moral Dilemma – Presentation

15% Exam #1

15% Exam #2

100% TOTAL

5% Extra Credit Available – If you submit at least five XC Journal entries.

Assignments

Participation and Contributions to Online Discussions

Participation and contribution to discussions account for **20% of your grade** in this course. Students learn best when they are engaged actively with the course material and their fellow learners. Therefore, you are expected to read all assignments and contribute to online discussions **during the days we cover each topic**.

You are expected to make at least one original post and one response in every online discussion topic related to course content. At least half of your posts must be replies to your fellow students' posts. If you do not meet the requirement for online discussion, your grade will be affected.

By the end of the course, you should have made a **minimum of eighty (80) online posts**, and the posts should include **at least forty (40) responses to classmates' posts**. Normally, your grade for participation and contributions to online discussions will follow this chart:

Number of Online Posts	Highest Possible Grade for Participation and Contributions to Online Discussions
>80 (including at least 40 responses)	100%
75 (including at least 38 responses)	90%
70 (including at least 35 responses)	80%
65 (including at least 33 responses)	70%
60 (including at least 30 responses)	60%
55 (including at least 28 responses)	50%
<55	Zero – No Credit

Every written assignment should be **typed, double-spaced with 12 pt. font** (Times New Roman or equivalent), **saved as either a Microsoft Word document or PDF file**, and submitted on the course website by the deadline stated in the "Course Schedule."

ALWAYS KEEP AN ELECTRONIC COPY OF YOUR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS. While you will submit assignments on the course website, it is a good idea to keep an electronic copy for yourself.

All work must be your own. As you use additional resources, you must include a Works Cited page, and you must use in-text citations to show specifically where you used information from the sources in your assignments. **You are required to follow the College's guidelines for Academic Integrity. Do not present others' ideas as your own, including using artificial intelligence (AI) software/programs or AI communication assistants to complete your work in this course. Plagiarism and/or AI use may result in a zero for the assignment, a failing grade in the course, and possible disciplinary action.**

If you plagiarize, use AI programs, or utilize AI communication assistants to prepare an assignment, you may be given **one opportunity during the entire course** to revise and resubmit an assignment. If you choose to resubmit the assignment, the maximum grade you may earn will be 50 out of 100. **Subsequent examples of plagiarism or AI use may result in a zero for the assignments.** Because the Moral Dilemma After paper and Exam #2 are due near the end of the semester, there is no opportunity to resubmit them. Plagiarism and/or AI use on these final assignments may result in a zero for the assignments.

Moral Dilemma. During the course, you will investigate a moral dilemma of your choosing. You are free to choose a moral dilemma of interest to you, and your topic may relate to your current studies, future work, or a pressing social issue. Near the beginning of the course, you will submit your proposed topic, and I will provide feedback and/or approval.

You will submit **four assignments** in relation to your moral dilemma:

1. **Moral Dilemma – Topic**
2. **Moral Dilemma – Before Paper (at least 750 words)**
3. **Moral Dilemma – After Paper (at least 1000 words)**
4. **Moral Dilemma – Presentation**

Moral Dilemma – Topic. Near the beginning of the course, you will submit the topic you wish to study throughout the course.

Moral Dilemma – Before Paper. Once your topic is approved, you will write a **minimum of 750 words** about your response to a specific moral dilemma in order to assess your own moral thinking as you begin the class.

The “Before Paper” should

- State the moral issue.
- Outline the moral issue’s history.
- Discuss how and/or why it is a dilemma.
- Describe your views on the matter.
- Examine others’ views you wish to include.
- Describe why you hold the views you do.
- Include a Works Cited page with at least four scholarly works used to prepare your Before Paper.

(This paper is supposed to be about your own moral views. The purpose is for you to write about **what you think**, any actions you have taken or believe others should take, and why.)

Moral Dilemma – After Paper. Near the end of the course, you will write a **minimum of 1000 words** dealing with the same moral dilemma. You should write the second paper in conversation with our work throughout the course. The “After Paper” should indicate whether your perspective has changed, deepened, shifted, and/or become clearer based on the work we have done together in the course.

The “After Paper” should

- Describe the moral issue, discuss why it is a dilemma, and state your views on the issue.
- Provide the rationale(s) for the position you are taking (whether it is the same or different from your original response).
- Discuss Quadrilateral sources you utilize (Reason, Religion/Higher Authority, Tradition, Experience).
- Examine modes of reflection you engage (Teleology, Deontology, and/or Areteology).

- Indicate whether your perspective has changed, deepened, shifted, and/or become clearer based on the work you have done in the course.
- Include at least two in-text citations from the textbook, showing specifically where you used information from the textbook to prepare your After Paper.
- Utilize at least six scholarly sources, not counting the textbook, and include in-text citations showing specifically where you used information from those scholarly sources.
- Include a Works Cited page with at least six scholarly works, not counting the textbook, used to prepare your After Paper. The Works Cited list should include an entry for every chapter of the textbook cited in the paper.

Moral Dilemma – Presentation. Using the same moral dilemma, you will create a presentation, which you will submit to the Assignments area of the course website by the due date in the “Course Schedule.”

You also will share your presentation with the class by uploading it to online discussions by a due date given in the “Course Schedule” document.

The presentation should include:

- A basic overview of the moral dilemma.
- An outline of the history and/or present state of the moral dilemma.
- A review of Quadrilateral sources of reflection you engaged when reflecting on the dilemma.
- A discussion of modes of reflection you used when considering the dilemma (Teleology, Deontology, and/or Areteology).
- Your suggested steps for action in relation to the dilemma.
- A discussion of why you have chosen your suggested action steps.
- Works Cited list with at least six scholarly works used to prepare your presentation.
- At the end of your presentation, include two questions/discussion starters related to your presentation, which will begin online interaction between classmates about your dilemma.

Your presentation should last **from three to five minutes**. Your presentation must be based on a written outline in or with the file(s) you upload. An effective way to do this is to prepare a PowerPoint file and then record yourself speaking with a voice memo app on a smart phone. The PowerPoint slides are your outline, and the audio file is your oral presentation. Then, upload the audio file along with the PowerPoint file so others can listen to you speaking while viewing the PowerPoint slides. You may use other methods so long as your fellow students and the professor can **view and hear** your presentation.

You will submit your presentation for grading and also upload your presentation in an online discussion area of our course website by the date given in the Course Schedule document. Uploading your presentation in an online discussion allows other students to view it and learn from you.

Exams

There are **two exams** in this course, which must be **submitted on the course website by the due dates outlined in the “Course Schedule.”** For each exam, you will be given a case study, and you will be expected to reflect ethically on it. You are welcome to use as many resources as you like (such as books or class notes), but the work should be entirely your own. You must cite any outside resources you use. You must write a **minimum of 750 words for each exam.**

Exam #1 is required. If you are satisfied with the grade you receive on Exam #1, you will not be required to complete Exam #2, and the same score you received on Exam #1 will be recorded for Exam #2. For example, if you receive a “B” on Exam #1, and you are satisfied with the grade, you do not need to complete Exam #2. You will receive a “B” for both Exam #1 and Exam #2. If you would like to improve your score on the second exam, then you are encouraged to complete Exam #2.

Like other written assignments, exams must be **typewritten, double-spaced with 12 pt. font** (Times New Roman or equivalent), saved as either a **Microsoft Word document or PDF file**, and submitted on our website.

XC Journal Entries

During the course, you will be encouraged to write Extra Credit (“XC”) Journal Entries about particular topics or questions related to our course material. You do not need to do additional preparation for journal entries beyond reading the text and participating in online discussions. Like other written assignments, XC Personal Journals should be saved as either **Microsoft Word documents or PDF files**, and submitted on our course website.

The goal of XC Journal Entries is to relate course materials to real-life issues and situations and, therefore, to help you see the relevance of ethics to your life. **By completing at least five XC Journal Entries, you can earn up to 5% extra credit** to be added to your final grade.

MAKE-UP WORK

Online Discussions. A major portion of your work in this course is **participation in online discussions** on our course website. You are expected to post discussion threads, read others’ posts, and reply to other posts **during the days we are covering each topic. It is not possible to make-up online discussions after we finish each topic.**

Participating in online discussions after we finish a topic is similar to going to a classroom after everyone has left. You may have wonderful things to say and great insights to share, but you are all alone. The goal is interacting with your fellow students and professor, and we do this by engaging in online discussions during the days we cover each topic.

Moral Dilemma Assignments and Exams. Please be aware of due dates and work ahead so you will not miss deadlines. **If you submit work late, the maximum grade you may earn will be 50 out of 100.** Late work will be accepted up to one week after the due date. **After one week following the due date, assignments will not be accepted, and you will receive no credit for the assignment.**

PLEASE NOTE: the “Moral Dilemma – After Paper,” Exam #2, and all XC Personal Journals must be submitted by the due date. Because these assignments are due near the end of the semester, they cannot be accepted late.

Grading Scheme

Grade	Range
A	90 – 100 %
B	80 – 89 %
C	70 – 79 %
D	60 – 69 %
F	59 and less %

ONLINE LEARNING CONDUCT

Ethics is an active pursuit, and you will be expected to engage the materials actively. During the course, you will be expected to contribute by reading, writing, listening, and providing feedback to the professor and your fellow students. You likely will have different convictions and points of view from those of the professor and your fellow students. You are to respect others and act toward others with courtesy at all times. You do not have to agree with the professor or other students, but you are expected to listen, speak, write, and provide feedback in positive ways.

Students are expected to log in to the course website every day. When you log in, you should review all Announcements, read all threads in the Online Discussions, make your own posts, and reply to others’ posts during the days we cover each topic.

This is not a self-paced course. See the “Course Schedule” document for the dates we will cover each topic. Students are expected to complete all work – including online discussions – for each unit during the days assigned for each unit. Once a unit concludes, it is not possible to complete online discussions for that unit.

Participation and Contribution to Online Discussions is a very important part of the course, and it will be a major part of each student’s final course grade. The most successful online students set a schedule to log on to the course website on a daily basis. Failure to log on and participate fully in the class during the days we cover each topic can affect negatively a student’s grade in the course.

You do not need any background in ethics to participate successfully. You need only to read the assignments, attend class, contribute to discussions, ask questions, and be willing to learn.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND RESOURCES

NWFSC aims for excellence in education and scholarly pursuits. Campus policies and procedures support this goal by protecting the health, safety, welfare, and property of the College and its students. To view all campus policies, please see the [college catalog](#). Several essential policies are provided below with the corresponding link to the full policy for your review.

NWFSC POLICY	DESCRIPTION
<p>Academic Integrity</p>	<p>Students are expected to behave responsibly as members of the College community and be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. This includes the use of generative AI tools. Using genAI in any form to substantially complete an assessment is prohibited, except where explicitly allowed by the instructor.</p> <p>Any time the instructor suspects there is a violation of Academic Integrity or there is a reported Academic Integrity Incident, the instructor is required to investigate it as outlined in the Academic Integrity section of the handbook (linked to the left). The instructor will provide information to the student about the procedure, the complaint, the findings, and any consequence imposed.</p> <p>Students are also expected to behave professionally and refrain from disrupting other students' learning environments.</p>
<p>Accommodations</p>	<p>The Accommodation Resource Center at Northwest Florida State College is committed to providing equal access and opportunities for educational success to all students with disabilities as guided by the American Disabilities Act and other disability-related laws.</p>
<p>Attendance</p>	<p>Regular attendance and participation in the course is expected. All students should adhere to the College calendar. For dual enrolled students, high school holidays may not be College holidays.</p>
<p>Tutoring Services</p>	<p>Tutoring services are available in person and online.</p>
<p>Counseling Services</p>	<p>All actively enrolled students can receive an initial assessment and up to five therapeutic sessions with a Behavioral Health provider at no cost to the student.</p>
<p>Student Code of Conduct</p>	<p>Students are expected to adhere to the rules, regulations, and policies outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.</p>
<p>Student Complaints</p>	<p>NWFSC desires to resolve student grievances, complaints, and concerns expeditiously, fairly, and in an amicable manner. A student who desires to resolve a grievance may initiate the resolution process using the information in the link provided to the left.</p>

Student Rights and Responsibilities

All students should review the Student Rights and Responsibilities section of the Student Handbook to understand their role as a student.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TECHNICAL SKILLS AND SPECIALIZED TECHNOLOGY FOR ONLINE COURSES

This course is entirely online. Students must provide their device(s) to access and complete this class online. In addition to baseline word processing skills and sending/receiving emails with attachments, students may be expected to search the Internet and upload/download files. If you encounter technology challenges using course resources in the Learning Management System, email the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning at online@nwfsc.edu or call 850-729-6464.

EMERGENCY COLLEGE CLOSURE

This course's schedule, requirements, and procedures are subject to change in the event of unusual or extraordinary circumstances. If the College closes for inclement weather or another emergency, any exams, presentations, or assignments previously scheduled during the closure period will automatically be rescheduled for the first regular class meeting held once the college reopens. If changes to graded activities are required, students will not be penalized due to the adjustments but will be responsible for meeting revised deadlines and course requirements.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY TOOLS

Northwest Florida State College subscribes to Turnitin, an online plagiarism detection and prevention service. By enrolling in this class, students consent to upload their papers to Turnitin, where they will be checked for plagiarism, use of AI software, and/or utilization of AI communication assistants in preparing assignments. Papers submitted to Turnitin may be saved as source documents within these databases to detect plagiarism in other papers. Please note: All assignments submitted in this course are analyzed for plagiarism, artificial intelligence use, and originality.

ACADEMIC CONTINUITY PLAN

NWFSC is dedicated to protecting the health and well-being of its students, staff, and faculty. The College is dedicated to working with faculty and students to ensure timely course and program completion during emergencies. In the event of a College closure, the format of this course may be modified to enable completion of the course through other means, including but not limited to online course delivery through online classrooms. Check your RaiderNet College email and LMS classroom online for any updates.

WELCOME TO CLASS

Thank you for choosing NWFSC for your education—and welcome to class!