

Syllabus Ethical Theory

University of Central Florida - Summer A/2017

Instructor Contact

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Course Information

- Course Name: Ethical Theory
- Course ID & Section: PHI 3670 AW61
- Credit Hours: 3
- Semester/Year: Summer A 2017
- Location: Online Course

Course Description

University course catalog description: Major classical and contemporary topics in ethics, including value theory, utilitarian, deontological, virtue-based and feminist approaches to ethics, rights, and justice; some examination of metaethical issues.

Course Description: This course aims at critically introducing Ethics as the philosophy discipline that investigates morality in its theoretical aspects.

The course is divided in 4 Modules as follows:

Module 1. The Good Life - Value theory: In Value Theory we address the problem of finding out what a life worth living may be (a “good life”) and how this problem relates overall to the study of ethics.

Module 2. Normative Ethics I: In the study of Normative Ethics I we address the theories of right conduct towards others. For doing so, we discuss normative arguments in the debate between morality and religion, natural law, as well as psychological and ethical egoism.

Module 3. Normative Ethics II: In the study of Normative Ethics II we address the theories of right conduct towards others in the context of consequence and duty.

Module 4. Normative Ethics III & Metaethics: In the Study of Normative Ethics II we address the theories of ethics in the context of the social contract and virtue ethics. In the study of Metaethics we consider the status and nature of morality itself.

Course Objectives

Students shall:

1. Identify ethics arguments in the context of value theory, normative ethics, and metaethics;
2. Explore value theory by critically considering the varieties of “good life” approaches and its relations to ethics at large;

3. Explore the debate on the nature of morality in metaethics and its consequences;
4. Become familiar with normative theories of ethical conduct such as consequentialism, deontology, virtue-theory, feminist ethics, social contract theory and subsequently be able to consider the application of these theories to reflect upon contemporary moral problems.

Required Text

Landau, Russ Shafer. *The fundamentals of ethics*. Third edition. Oxford University Press, 2015.

Supplemental Texts

- See "Further Reading" page

Course Requirements

Junior standing and C.I.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

If you believe you will need to lose assignments due to disease and/or an emergency, please contact the instructor for discussion of alternatives.

Evaluation and Grading

Description of the assessments:

Self-paced quizzes: those are activities to help you master the content and be clear about your basic level of interpretation of the readings. You can re-take as much as you like the quizzes. Only the final, highest grade will be recorded.

Discussion posts: Every class day you are required to write a post, providing a question, or a reflection, or thoughtfully replying to the posts of others, as well as to the final powerpoint presentation of your colleagues.

Exams: By the end of every module, there will be an exam, with both multiple-choice and essay questions.

Powerpoint presentation: By the end of the course, all students will present a powerpoint with their philosophical inquiry in ethical theory.

Letter Grade

Points

A	93 – 100 points
A-	90 – 92 points
B+	87 – 89 points
B	83 – 86 points
B-	80 – 82 points
C+	77 – 79 points
C	73 – 76 points

C- 70 – 72 points
D+ 67 – 69 points
D 63 – 66 points
D- 60 – 62 points
F 59 and below

Assignment Grading Percentage of Grade

Assignment 1: Self-Paced Quizzes 5%
Assignment 3: Discussion Posts 10%
Assignment 3: Exams (4) 60%
Assignment 4: Exam reviews. 10%
Assignment 5: Powerpoint presentation 15%
Total. 100%

Attendance Policy

This is an online course, thus the expectation is that you be present online by timely participating in the learning activities of the course.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the [Office of Student Conduct](#) for further action. See the [UCF Golden Rule](#) for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who

need accommodations must connect with [Student Accessibility Services](#), Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

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Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need not make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.