



湖北工业大学
HUBEI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Course Title	Ethics
Course Code	PHIL 1331
Semester	Summer 2026
Course Length	4 Weeks, 60 Contact Hours
Credits	4
Instructor	TBA
Office	TBA
Email	TBA
Prerequisite	N/A

Course Description:

This class is an introduction to moral philosophy. The first part of the course looks at major views in normative ethics - what theory or framework should we use to determine whether an action is morally right or wrong? The second part of the course looks at topics in applied ethics, where we try to address some actual moral questions that people might face. We will examine major ethical frameworks such as consequentialism, deontology, and virtue ethics before applying these theories to pressing moral issues including climate change, euthanasia, abortion, animal rights, and economic justice.

Course Goals:

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate competency in the following general education core goals:

- **Critical thinking skills** – Students will engage in creative and/or innovative thinking, and/or inquiry, analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information, organizing concepts, and constructing solutions.
- **Communication skills** – Students will demonstrate effective written, oral, and visual communication.
- **Teamwork** – Students will demonstrate the ability to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal and consider different points of view.
- **Social responsibility** – Students will demonstrate intercultural competency and civic knowledge by engaging effectively in local, regional, national, and global communities.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

- gain an appreciation of major moral theories and a better understanding of the ethical dimensions of contemporary moral issues;

- better read and understand academic writing, and reconstruct arguments;
- gain a better understanding of what philosophy is, and how different questions can be investigated using philosophical tools;
- apply ethical frameworks to analyze contemporary moral issues;
- develop and defend reasoned arguments on ethical matters;
- engage in respectful dialogue on controversial moral topics;
- identify the ethical dimensions of social and political issues.

Textbooks:

- Edited by Andrew Bailey. *The Broadview Introduction to Philosophy Volume II: Values and Society*. Broadview, 2019. (Hereafter referred to as *Broadview*)
- Rachels, J., & Rachels, S. *The Elements of Moral Philosophy* (10th Edition). McGraw Hill, 2023. (Hereafter referred to as *Elements*)

Course Requirements:

Participation

Active engagement in class discussions and activities is essential. Students are expected to contribute thoughtful comments, ask questions, and demonstrate familiarity with the assigned readings. Participation also includes in-class debates and small-group discussions.

Short Reflection Papers

Students will submit four short papers (2–3 pages each) throughout the term. These papers will require critical engagement with course materials, applying ethical theories to contemporary issues. Proper argumentation and clarity of writing will be emphasized.

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will consist of a combination of short-answer and essay questions. It will test students' understanding of ethical theories and their ability to apply these theories to moral dilemmas discussed in class.

Final Paper

A major component of the course, the final paper (6–8 pages) will require students to construct a well-reasoned argument on a contemporary moral issue of their choice. The paper should incorporate philosophical sources and demonstrate a strong grasp of ethical theories. A proposal and preliminary bibliography will be submitted for feedback before the final submission.

Final Exam

The final exam will be comprehensive, covering all topics discussed throughout the semester. It will include both short-answer and long-form essay questions, assessing students' ability to synthesize and critically evaluate ethical perspectives.

Assessments: Activity	Percent Contribution
Participation	10%
Short Reflection Papers (4)	30%
Midterm Exam	20%

Final Paper	15%
Final Exam	25%

Grading:

Final grades will be based on the sum of all possible course points as noted above.

Grade	Percentage of available points
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D	64-69
D-	60-63
F	0-59

Course Schedule:

The schedule of activities is subject to change at the reasonable discretion of the instructor. Minor changes will be announced in class, major ones provided in writing.

PHIL 1331 Schedule		
Lecture	Topic	Readings
L1	Foundations of Ethical Theory Introduction to Ethics and Moral Philosophy	<i>Broadview</i> , Part 1 Ethical Theory
L2	Moral Relativism vs. Moral Objectivity	<i>Broadview</i> , Part 1 Ethical Theory <i>Elements</i> , CH. 7
L3	Consequentialism: Utilitarianism and Its Challenges	<i>Broadview</i> , Part 1 Ethical Theory
L4	Deontology: Kantian Ethics and Moral Duty	<i>Broadview</i> , Part 1 Ethical Theory <i>Elements</i> , CH. 10
L5	Virtue Ethics: Aristotle and Moral Character	<i>Broadview</i> , Part 1 Ethical Theory <i>Elements</i> , CH. 12
L6	Contemporary Ethical Theories: Contractualism and Care Ethics	<i>Broadview</i> , Part 1 Ethical Theory
L7	Life and Death The Ethics of Abortion: Pro-Choice and Pro-Life Arguments	<i>Broadview</i> , Part 1 Ethical Issues
L8	Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide *Short Reflection Paper 1	<i>Broadview</i> , Part 1 Ethical Issues
L9	Capital Punishment: Just or Unjust?	<i>Broadview</i> , Part 2 Social-Political Philosophy
L10	The Right to Healthcare: Moral and Political Considerations	<i>Broadview</i> , Part 2 Equality and Fairness
L11	Disability Ethics: Rights, Autonomy, and Social Justice	<i>Broadview</i> , Part 2

	*Short Reflection Paper 2	Equality and Fairness
L12	Justice and Rights Economic Justice: Wealth Inequality and Moral Responsibility	<i>Broadview</i> , Part 2 Social-Political Philosophy
/	Midterm Exam	/
L13	Racial and Gender Justice: Structural Injustice and Ethical Responses	<i>Broadview</i> , Part 2 Equality and Fairness
L14	Immigration and Refugee Ethics	<i>Broadview</i> , Part 1 Ethical Issues
L15	Free Speech and Censorship	<i>Broadview</i> , Part 2 Social-Political Philosophy
L16	The Ethics of War and Peace: Just War Theory Terrorism and War	<i>Broadview</i> , Part 1 Ethical Issues
	*Short Reflection Paper 3	
L17	Ethics and the Non-Human World Animal Rights and Moral Consideration	<i>Broadview</i> , Part 1 Ethical Issues
L18	Climate Change Ethics: Individual vs. Collective Responsibility	<i>Broadview</i> , Part 1 Ethical Issues
L19	The Ethics of AI and Emerging Technologies	<i>Broadview</i> , Part 1 Ethical Issues
	*Short Reflection Paper 4	
L20	Environmental Ethics: Sustainability and Future Generations	<i>Broadview</i> , Part 1 Ethical Issues
L21	Bioethics: Genetic Engineering and Human Enhancement	<i>Broadview</i> , Part 1 Ethical Issues
L22	Contemporary Moral Debates The Ethics of Consumerism and Corporate Responsibility	Handouts
L23	Cancel Culture and Moral Accountability	Handouts
L24	Case Studies in Applied Ethics	Handouts
L25	Course Review and Final Exam Preparation	Handouts
	Final Paper Submission	
/	Final Exam	/

Accommodation Statement

Academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as he/she is not legally permitted to inquire. Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow.

Academic Integrity Statement

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

Other Items:**Attendance and Expectations**

All students are required to attend every class, except in cases of illness, serious family concerns, or other major problems. We expect that students will arrive on time, be prepared to listen and participate as appropriate, and stay for the duration of a meeting rather than drift in or out casually. In short, we anticipate that students will show professors and fellow students maximum consideration by minimizing the disturbances that cause interruptions in the learning process. This means that punctuality is a must, that cellular phones be turned off, and that courtesy is the guiding principle in all exchanges among students and faculty. You will be responsible for the materials and ideas presented in the lecture.

Assignment Due Dates

All written assignments must be turned in at the time specified. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior information has been obtained from the instructor. If you believe you have extenuating circumstances, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Make-Up Work

The instructor will not provide students with class information or make-up assignments/quizzes/exams missed due to an unexcused absence. Absences will be excused and assignments/quizzes/exams may be made up only with written documentation of an authorized absence. Every effort should be made to avoid scheduling appointments during class. An excused student is responsible for requesting any missed information from the instructor and setting up any necessary appointments outside of class.

Access, Special Needs and Disabilities

Please notify the instructor at the start of the semester if you have any documented disabilities, a medical issue, or any special circumstances that require attention, and the school will be happy to assist.