

# ETHICS AND VALUES AT UVU

## OVERVIEW

- Established in 1986 with assistance from the National Endowment for the Humanities.
- Designed as a broad-based interdisciplinary humanities course.
- Continuously conducts assessments of Course Learning Objectives (CLOs).
- Fall 2018 enrollments: 3552 students; 78 sections.

## CATALOG DESCRIPTION

*Challenges students to (1) explore and clarify their values; (2) critically read works of philosophy, literature, religion, and history toward understanding the basis of their ethical views; and (3) read, study, research, discuss, and write about difficult ethical issues. Focuses on issues of good and evil, justice and injustice, equality and inequality, and the necessity of defining and examining happiness and values. Engages students in serious reflection on issues of ethics and values as they relate to the students' own lives.*

## KEY STATISTICS

Fall 2018 Student Surveys (45% Response Rate):

- 73% report positive/very positive experiences in E&V.
- 78% report an increase in critical thinking.
- 68% report an increase in communication skills.
- 69% report an increase in professional skills.
- 82% report an increase in informed citizenship.

## AWARDS

- 6 National Grants from National Endowment for the Humanities and Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education.
- Grants were awarded to design E&V curriculum and to implement the UVU model at dozens of other colleges and universities.
- Theodore M. Hesburgh Award for Undergraduate Teaching & Learning (2001).

*A 2000 review of UVU's General Education Program stated that the program's "greatest strength may be the Ethics and Values course because it models the integration and interdisciplinarity that one would hope for in all general education courses."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> James E. Faulconer, "General Education at Utah Valley State College: A Review."

## UVU GENERAL EDUCATION MISSION

*General Education is a shared academic experience that provides students with the opportunity to explore new subjects, intellectual traditions, and perspectives; expands their awareness of the wider world; and prepares them with foundational knowledge, skills, and abilities that are expanded on in their disciplines of study in order to be successful learners and professionals positioned to contribute to their broader communities.*

## E&V COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLOs)

Upon successful completion, students should be able to:

- Explain several different theories of ethics, and contemporary ethical issues.
- Describe the moral ethical dimensions of works of philosophy, literature, religion, and other disciplines within the humanities.
- Articulate their own ethical views and positions.
- Interrelate with a society of increasing intercultural connections.

## E&V CLOs ALIGN WITH:

All 6 of UVU's Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs)—especially “People of Integrity”

- **Ethical Reasoning and Understanding**
  - *Recognize ethical issues.*
  - *Develop critical thinking and self-confrontation skills.*
- **Personal and Social Responsibility**
  - *Cultivate tolerance toward disagreement and inevitable ambiguities in dealing with ethical problems.*
  - *Elicit a sense of moral obligation and develop a personal code of ethics.*

AACU's LEAP Initiative (UVU and USHE are LEAP institutions)

### Principles of Excellence:

- *Teaching the arts of inquiry and imagination.*
- *Engage the big questions.*
- *Connect knowledge with choices and action.*
- *Foster civic, cultural, and ethical learning.*

### Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs):

- *Inquiry and analysis.*
- *Written and oral communication.*
- *Critical and creative thinking.*
- *Ethical reasoning and action.*
- *Civic knowledge and engagement—local and global.*
- *Intercultural knowledge and competence.*
- *Foundations and skills for lifelong learning.*