



## Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

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**Semester:** Spring

**Course Prefix:** PHIL

**Course Title:** Ethics and Values

**Year:** 2025

**Course and Section #:** 2050 007

**Credits:** 3

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### ***Course Description***

Challenges students to explore and clarify their values; critically read works of philosophy, literature, religion, and history toward understanding the basis of their ethical views; and read, study, research, discuss, and write about difficult ethical issues. Focuses on issues of good vs. evil, justice vs. injustice, equality vs. 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.

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### ***Course Attributes***

This course has the following attributes:

- General Education Requirements
- Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- Elective Core Requirements in Program
- Open Elective

Other: *Click here to enter text.*

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### ***Instructor Information***

**Instructor Name:** Greg Spendlove

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### ***Student Learning Outcomes***

1. Explain several different theories of ethics, and contemporary ethical issues.
  2. Describe the moral ethical dimensions of works of philosophy, literature, religion, and other disciplines within the humanities.
  3. Articulate their own ethical views and positions.
  4. Interrelate with a society of increasing intercultural connections.
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### ***Course Materials and Texts***

Shafer-Landau, Russ. [\*Ethical Theory: An Anthology\*](#). 2nd ed. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013. ISBN: 978-0470-67160-3

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# Course Requirements

## Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

- **Attendance & Participation (15%):** Class participation is vital to your success in this class. Absences and tardiness must be kept to a minimum. **You will be afforded three free absences. If you miss seven or more classes, you may receive a failing grade for the course.** If you are not in class, you are missing lectures and discussions, and the other students will miss your insightful comments. *Anyone who misses class is solely responsible for the materials and assignments missed.*
- **Quizzes (35%):** There are **14 Canvas reading quizzes** based on the readings in this class. Each quiz is worth 2.5% of your grade. The quizzes will be filled out at home while or after reading the relevant article(s). The quizzes are open-book and have no time limit. However, you may only take the quizzes once.
- **Position Papers (20%):** Each student will write **one 3-to-5-page paper** in MLA format (see [MLA template in handouts](#)) on the questions found in the position paper topics handout. The paper must put forth a *thesis*, provide *reasons* for accepting the thesis, consider an *objection*, and offer a *reply* to the objection. **The student must read all the required resources listed on the topics page, list all of them in their bibliography, and directly quote from at least five of them in the paper. There will be an automatic five-point deduction for every missing resource in the bibliography as well as every missing required quotation.**

Additional resources are not required. However, if the student chooses to use extra internet resources, they may only use the two sites linked below. **There will be an automatic five-point deduction for the use of each unapproved internet resource.**

- [Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#)
- [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#)

For more information on how the position paper will be graded, see the paper handout and the grading rubric on Canvas.

- **Tests (30%):** There are two tests in this class, each worth 15% of your grade. The tests will focus primarily on class lectures and will consist of three sections: true/false, multiple-choice, and short answer. **True/false and multiple-choice questions will be completed at home on Canvas after group discussion on the day of the test.** For these sections, you may use your notes, the class textbook, online readings, and class study groups. However, the use of the Internet (other than the required class readings) is prohibited. **Short answer questions will be completed in class and require a green book, which can be purchased at the bookstore.** *For this section, you are allowed to use one 3x5 index card with handwritten notes. To prevent the use of AI, you may not write word-for-word answers to the short answer questions on the note card.*  
**The use of any unapproved internet sources (e.g., Wikipedia, Quizlet, ChatGPT, etc.) on the test will result in an automatic zero with no opportunity for a retake.**

## Course Grading Scale

		B+	87-89.99	C+	77-79.99	D+	67-69.99	E	0-59.99
A	94-100	B	84-86.99	C	74-76.99	D	64-66.99		
A-	90-93.99	B-	80-83.99	C-	70-73.99	D-	60-63.99		

## Late Assignment Policy

**Late assignments will have 10% deducted** from the assignment (not your grade) for every day they are late (including weekends). In other words, if the assignment, e.g., a quiz worth 10 points, is one day late, one point will be deducted and so you cannot earn a grade higher than 9; if it's two days late, two points will be deducted and so you cannot earn a grade higher than 8. Consequently, you will not receive any credit for assignments that are more than 9 days late. Further, no late assignments will be accepted after the day of the final exam or, if the class doesn't have a final, the day the final would be given.

### Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

See General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture below

### General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

PHIL2050: Ethics and Values			
COURSE SCHEDULE			
Week 1: Welcome, Syllabus, and Handouts			
DATE	DAY	TYPE	ASSIGNMENT
Jan 07	T		Welcome and Introductions
Jan 09	R	READ	<a href="#">Syllabus</a>
		READ	Handout: <a href="#">How to Write a Short Philosophy Paper</a>
		READ	Handout: <a href="#">Vaughn, Lewis - How to Write a Philosophy Paper</a>
		READ	Handout: <a href="#">Sample Argumentative Paper</a>
		READ	Handout: <a href="#">MLA Template for Position Papers</a>

		READ	Handout: <a href="#">Position Paper Checklist</a>
		READ	Handout: <a href="#">Topics for Position Paper</a>
		PRINT	Handout: <a href="#">PHIL2050 Test 1</a>
		PRINT	Handout: <a href="#">PHIL2050 Test 1 Short Answer Questions</a>
		PRINT	Handout: <a href="#">PHIL2050 Test 2</a>
		PRINT	Handout: <a href="#">PHIL2050 Test 2 Short Answer Questions.pdf</a>
		SUBMIT	<a href="#">SUBMIT: READING QUIZ #1: Syllabus and Reading Pledge</a> (Due by 11:59 PM MST Sunday this week)

### Week 2: Introduction to Philosophy

DATE	DAY	TYPE	ASSIGNMENT
Jan 14	T	READ	<a href="#">Metcalf, Thomas -- What is Philosophy?</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">Crash Course: What is Philosophy?</a>
Jan 16	R	READ	<a href="#">Vaughn, Lewis — Philosophy and You</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">Azusa University: 3 Myths of Philosophy Majors</a>
		SUBMIT	<a href="#">READING QUIZ #2: Philosophy and You</a> (Due by 11:59 PM MST Sunday this week)

### Week 3: Introduction to Logic

DATE	DAY	TYPE	ASSIGNMENT
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Jan 21	T	READ	<a href="#">Vaughn, Lewis - Reasons &amp; Arguments (pp. 14-24)</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">What Is Logic?   The Study of Correct Reasoning</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">What is an Argument in Philosophy?   Logical Argument</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">What Is Deductive vs Inductive Reasoning?   Deductive vs Inductive Arguments</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">What Is Valid vs. Invalid?   Deductive Reasoning</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">What is a Sound Argument?   Deductive Soundness Explained</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">What Is a Cogent Argument   Inductive Reasoning</a>
Jan 23	R	READ	<a href="#">Vaughn, Lewis - Reasons &amp; Arguments (pp. 29-36)</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">Top 10 Logical Fallacies</a>
		SUBMIT	<a href="#">READING QUIZ #3: Reason &amp; Arguments</a> (Due by 11:59 PM MST Sunday this week)
<b>Week 4: Moral Philosophy</b>			
DATE	DAY	TYPE	ASSIGNMENT
Jan 28	T	READ	<a href="#">Wolff, Jonathan -- Ch1 Moral Philosophy</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">Ethics Defined: Moral Philosophy</a>
Jan 30	R	READ	<a href="#">Vaughn, Lewis -- Ch4-The Power of Moral Theories</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">Crash Course: Metaethics</a>

		SUBMIT	<a href="#">SUBMIT: READING QUIZ #4: Moral Philosophy and Moral Theories</a> (Due by 11:59 PM MST Sunday this week)
<b>Week 5: Moral Intuitionism &amp; the Open-Question Argument</b>			
DATE	DAY	TYPE	ASSIGNMENT
Feb 04	T	READ	<a href="#">Gensler, Harry - Intuitionism</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">Philosophy Vibe: G. E. Moore's Non-Naturalism</a>
Feb 06	R	READ	<a href="#">TEXTBOOK: Moore, G. E. - The Subject-Matter of Ethics pp. 48-53</a>
		SUBMIT	<a href="#">READING QUIZ #5: The Subject-Matter</a> (Due by 11:59 PM MST Sunday this week)
<b>Week 6: Emotivism</b>			
DATE	DAY	TYPE	ASSIGNMENT
Feb 11	T	READ	<a href="#">Gensler, Harry - Emotivism</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">Philosophy Vibe: A. J. Ayer's Emotivism: Non-Cognitivism</a>
Feb 13	R	READ	<a href="#">TEXTBOOK: Ayer, A. J. - A Critique of Ethics pp. 16-21</a>
		SUBMIT	<a href="#">READING QUIZ #6: A Critique of Ethics</a> (Due by 11:59 PM MST Sunday this week)
<b>Week 7: Error Theory</b>			
DATE	DAY	TYPE	ASSIGNMENT
Feb 18	T	READ	<a href="#">Tully, Ian -- Moral Error Theory.pdf</a>

		WATCH	<a href="#">Philosophy Vibe: J. L. Mackie's Moral Skepticism: Error Theory</a>
Feb 20	R	READ	<a href="#">TEXTBOOK: Mackie, J. L. - The Subjectivity of Values pp. 22-30</a>
		SUBMIT	<a href="#">READING QUIZ #7: The Subjectivity of Ethics</a> (Due by 11:59 PM MST Sunday this week)
<b>Week 8: Moral Relativism</b>			
DATE	DAY	TYPE	ASSIGNMENT
Feb 25	T	READ	<a href="#">TEXTBOOK: Gensler, Harry - Cultural Relativism pp. 44 - 47</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">Ethics Defined: Moral Relativism</a>
Feb 27	R	READ	<a href="#">Beckwith, Francis -- Why I am Not a Moral Relativist.pdf</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">Let's Get Logical: Objections to Moral Relativism</a>
		SUBMIT	<a href="#">SUBMIT: READING QUIZ #8: Why I Am Not a Relativist</a> (Due by 11:59 PM MST Sunday this week)
<b>Week 9: Test #1</b>			
DATE	DAY	TYPE	ASSIGNMENT
Mar 04	T	SUBMIT	<p><b>TRUE/FALSE AND MULTIPLE-CHOICE SECTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Print <a href="#">Test #1</a></li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the T/F &amp; multiple choice questions before coming to class.</li> <li>• Discuss answers with classmates after breaking into groups</li> <li>• Submit answers to Canvas by 11:59 PM MST.</li> </ul>
Mar 06	R	SUBMIT	<p><b>SHORT ANSWER SECTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Print <a href="#">Test 1 Short Answer Questions Download Short Answer han</a> &amp; bring it to class. (Must be clean)</li> <li>• Bring a new, blank <a href="#">green book</a> to class.</li> <li>• Answer all the short answer questions in the <a href="#">green book</a> during class.</li> <li>• Submit your <a href="#">green book</a> at the end of the class.</li> </ul>

**Week 10: Spring Break**

DATE	DAY	TYPE	ASSIGNMENT
Mar 11	T	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
Mar 13	R	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>

**Week 11: Theistic Ethics**

DATE	DAY	TYPE	ASSIGNMENT
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Mar 18	T	READ	<a href="#">Case, Spencer -- Because God Says So-On Divine Command Theory</a>
		READ	<a href="#">TEXTBOOK: Plato - Euthyphro pp. 218-219</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">Crash Course: Divine Command Theory</a>
Mar 20	R	READ	<a href="#">TEXTBOOK: Craig, W. L. &amp; Walter Sinnott-Armstrong - God &amp; Objective Morality: A Debate pp. 225-229</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">Reasonable Faith: Can You Be Good without God</a>
		SUBMIT	<a href="#">READING QUIZ #9: God &amp; Objective Morality</a> (Due by 11:59 PM MST Sunday this week)
<b>Week 12: Utilitarianism</b>			
DATE	DAY	TYPE	ASSIGNMENT
Mar 25	T	READ	<a href="#">TEXTBOOK READING: Mill, John Stuart - Utilitarianism pp. 417-422</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">Crash Course: Utilitarianism</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">Wireless Philosophy: Utilitarianism – Part 1</a>
Mar 27	R	READ	<a href="#">Shafer-Landau, Russ -- Consequentialism-Its Difficulties</a>
		READ	<a href="#">Le Guin, Ursula -- The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas</a>

		WATCH	<a href="#">Wireless Philosophy: Utilitarianism – Part 2</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">Wireless Philosophy: Utilitarianism – Part 3</a>
		SUBMIT	<a href="#">READING QUIZ #10: Utilitarianism</a> (Due by 11:59 PM MST Sunday this week)
		SUBMIT	<a href="#">Position Paper</a> (Due by Sunday this week)
<b>Week 13: Kantianism</b>			
DATE	DAY	TYPE	ASSIGNMENT
Apr 01	T	READ	<a href="#">TEXTBOOK: Kant, Immanuel - Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Moral pp. 485-498</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">Crash Course: Kant and the Categorical Imperative</a>
Apr 03	R	READ	<a href="#">Shafer-Landau, Russ -- The Kantian Perspective</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">Problems with Deontology (Kantianism)</a>
		SUBMIT	<a href="#">SUBMIT: READING QUIZ #11: The Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</a> (Due by 11:59 PM MST Sunday this week)
<b>Week 14: Virtue Theory</b>			
DATE	DAY	TYPE	ASSIGNMENT
Apr 08	T	READ	<a href="#">Merry, David - Virtue Ethics</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">Crash Course: Aristotle and Virtue Theory</a>

Apr 10	R	READ	<a href="#">TEXTBOOK: Hursthouse, Rosalind - Normative Virtue Ethics pp. 645-652</a>
		SUBMIT	<a href="#">SUBMIT: READING QUIZ #12: Normative Virtue Ethics</a> (Due by 11:59 PM MST Sunday this week)
<b>Week 15: Abortion</b>			
DATE	DAY	TYPE	ASSIGNMENT
Apr 15	T	READ	<a href="#">Nobis, Nathan -- The Ethics of Abortion</a>
		READ	<a href="#">TEXTBOOK: Tooley, Michael - Abortion and Infanticide pp. 390-399</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">Michael Tooley - A Neo-Lockean Argument for Abortion</a>
Apr 17	R	READ	<a href="#">TEXTBOOK: Marquis, Don - An Argument that Abortion is Wrong pp. 400-410</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">Let's Get Logical: Don Marquis on Abortion</a>
		SUBMIT	<a href="#">SUBMIT: READING QUIZ #13: An Argument that Abortion is Wrong</a> (Due by 11:59 PM MST Sunday this week)
<b>Week 16: Animal Rights</b>			
DATE	DAY	TYPE	ASSIGNMENT
Apr 22	T	READ	<a href="#">Wyckoff, Jason - The Moral Status of Animals.pdf</a>

		READ	<a href="#">TEXTBOOK: Singer, Peter - All Animals are Equal pp. 361-371</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">Crash Course: Non-Human Animals</a>
		READ	<a href="#">TEXTBOOK READING: Kant - We Have No Duties to Animals pp. 359-360</a>
		WATCH	<a href="#">Ethics: Killing Animals for Food</a>
		SUBMIT	<a href="#">SUBMIT: READING QUIZ #14: Pledge Assessment</a> (Due by 11:59 PM MST Sunday this week)
Apr 24	R	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>READING DAY</b>
<b>Test #2</b>			
DATE	DAY	TYPE	ASSIGNMENT
Apr 29	T	SUBMIT	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CLASS IS FROM 7:00-8:50 AM</b></p> <p><b>TRUE/FALSE AND MULTIPLE-CHOICE SECTION (First Hour of Class)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Print <a href="#">Test #2</a></li> <li>• Complete the T/F &amp; multiple choice questions before coming to class.</li> <li>• Discuss answers with classmates after breaking</li> </ul>

		<p>into groups for 1st hour of class.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit answers to Canvas by 11:59 PM MST.</li> </ul> <p><b>SHORT ANSWER SECTION (Second Hour of Class)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Print <a href="#">Test 2 Short Answer Questions Download Short Answer handout</a>&amp; bring it to class. (Must be clean)</li> <li>• Bring a new, blank <a href="#">green book</a> to class.</li> <li>• Answer all the short answer questions in the <a href="#">green book</a> during the 2nd hour of class.</li> <li>• Submit your <a href="#">green book</a> at the end of the class.</li> </ul>
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## ***Required Course Syllabus Statements***

### **Generative AI**

ChatGPT and other LLMs are artificial intelligence chatboxes that can be used to write papers, essays, brief answers, etc. The use of any AI is considered plagiarism and strictly prohibited in this class. Every relevant assignment will be run through UVU's plagiarism detection software with the ability to detect whether a text was generated using AI. It is suggested students run their work through an AI detector (UVU uses [Copyleaks](#)) before submitting their assignments. If AI content is detected, the student should revise and resubmit the assignment until no AI content is detected. It is also advised that students not rely heavily on writing tools like Grammarly to revise their writing for clarity and such--though spellcheck is probably fine--since they use AI and may cause the assignment to be flagged for containing AI content. **All assignments flagged as containing AI content will receive a "0" and the student will be invited to discuss the matter with me to provide evidence that AI wasn't used (e.g., a version history of the paper that shows continual progress with edits and revisions).**

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## Using Remote Testing Software

This course does not use remote testing software.

This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

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## *Required University Syllabus Statements*

### **Accommodations/Students with Disabilities**

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at [accessibilityservices@uvu.edu](mailto:accessibilityservices@uvu.edu) or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at [DHHservices@uvu.edu](mailto:DHHservices@uvu.edu)

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

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### **Academic Integrity**

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

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### **Equity and Title IX**

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – [TitleIX@uvu.edu](mailto:TitleIX@uvu.edu) – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

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### **Religious Accommodation**

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at [accessibilityservices@uvu.edu](mailto:accessibilityservices@uvu.edu). If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.