UVU UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY™

Master Course Syllabus

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

Semester: Spring
Course Prefix: PHIL
Course Title: Ethics and Values
Year: 2025
Course and Section #: 2050 011
Credits: 3

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.

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.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Brett M Miller

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.

Course Materials and Texts

Ethics: Discovering Right and Wrong, Pojman and Fieser; 8th Edition

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy
Grading:

Assignment	Points
Novel Selection	20
Presentation Topic and Format Proposal	20
Think-Writes (4, 50 Points Each)	200
Class Presentation	100
Final Exam	100
Total	440

Novel Selection:

Select a novel to read. Look for ethical issues addressed by the novel. Submit the title of your novel in Canvas.

Presentation Topic and Format Proposal:

Students will choose a topic (see below for more information) and a format for their class presentations. Format can be synchronous or asynchronous.

Think-Write:

Each "Think-Write" is a brief essay on a given topic. There is no right or wrong answer. Rather, you should give a brief but quality answer based on your own ideas and course materials. Each "Think-Write" is turned in on Canvas.

Class Presentation:

Students will select an ethical issue raised in their novel, explain it briefly, and then pick one of two options;

1) Explain how they would solve the problem as it is presented in the book

2) Explain how someone might get our society to adopt the same (un)ethical practice or thought process

Final Exam:

The Final Exam is comprehensive. It is a mix of multiple question types. It will be open in Canvas for several days during Finals Week. I write each Final Exam separately, based partly on the topics and ideas we explore in class. I cannot tell you the final format of the Final until about 3/4 of the way into the Semester. I will provide a study guide when possible.

Attendance Policy:

It's best to be in class. You will generally get a better grade just by attending. However, things sometimes happen. If you need to miss class, you can do so without penalty. The more you miss, the harder it is to capture things not in the reading or other class materials. After the first two weeks, I take roll based on activity in Canvas.

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments
Click here to enter text.

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Learning Schedule

Date	**Learning Activity**	**Reading Assignment**	**Supplemental Information**
Week 1			
January 11	Introduction to Class		https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u399XmkjeXo
Week 2			
January 18	Pre-Axial and Axial Ethics	"Discovering Right and Wrong" Chapter 1 Watch "What is Ethics?"	
		Class Packet 1 & 2	
Week 3			
January 25	Relativism and Objectivism	"Discovering Right and Wrong" Chapters 2 & 3	

Week 4			
Feb 1	What is the Good Life? The Social Contract	"Discovering Right and Wrong" Chapters 4 & 5	
	Choose Your Own Zombie Apocalypse Team		
Week 5			
February 08	**No Class Face-to-Face**	**Think-Write 1**	**Think-Write 1: How would you choose your group in a Zombie Apocalypse?**
Week 6			
February 15	The Allegory of the Cave	Class Packet 3	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RWOpQXTltA
Week 7			
February 22	Deontology and Virtue Ethics	"Discovering Right and Wrong" chapters 7-9	
Week 8			
March 1	**No Class Face to Face Think-Write 2:**		**Think-Write 2: How does the Allegory of the Cave relate to Education?**

Week 9			
March 8	St. Patrick's Day and Liminality		
Week 10			
March 15	**Spring Break!!!**	NO Classes	
Week 11			
March 22	Classical Dilemmas. Crime and Punishment	Class Packet 4	
Week 12			
March 29	**Asynchronous Week: Gender and Ethics**	"Discovering Right and Wrong" Chapter 11	
	No Class Face-to-Face	Watch a Video Chain	
Week 13			
April 5	**No Class Face-to-Face: Think Write 3**		**Think-Write 3: A Girl's School in "Manistan"**
Week 14			
April 12	Class Presentations Final Exam Review	Can be Synchronous or Asynchronous	
Week 15			

April 19	Class Presentations Final Exam Review		**Think-Write 4: What I** **Learned from** **Presentations**
Week 16			
April 26	Final Exam on Canvas		

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

The Department of Philosophy and Humanities recognizes that Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language Processing Tools are largely accessible to students and will be used by many in higher education for the foreseeable future. However, the skills taught in the humanities are unique. We aim to educate students in the careful reading of texts, the development of rigorous writing skills, the analysis and use of arguments, and to foster the thoughtful application of each of these skills in students' personal and social development. Research has not yet determined what bearing the use of AI tools in the classroom will have upon the successful acquisition of these skills.

Therefore, at this time, online learning support platforms (like ChatGPT or Google Bard) may not be used for course assignments in our department except as explicitly authorized by the instructor. Any assignment or content composed by any resource other than the student (whether human or digital) must be attributed to the source through proper citation. Unacknowledged use of online learning support platforms is a form of scholastic dishonesty and will be treated as such.

Some of our language has been adapted from the University of Minnesota

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.

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 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

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

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*.

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 – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

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. 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.