



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 012

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: Kenneth R. White

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

Pojman & Vaughn, *The Moral Life: An Introductory Reader in Ethics and Literature* (sixth edition)

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Regular class attendance and participation is expected. Students should have assigned readings completed before the day of discussion in class, in accordance with the tentative schedule outlined below. Students will be called on during class, and participation in discussions will be advantageous. Due to the nature of the material, it is advisable for students to keep up with the readings to gain the most benefit from classroom activities.

Written Requirements: Quizzes (6 total) will be based on material from the readings. There will also be a **final exam**. Each student will submit a **topic essay** (2 pages) on an ethical topic in the news, a current event, etc., chosen by the student. Additionally, a **research paper** will be required (8-10 pages), the topic to be decided on in consultation with the instructor. Prior to writing the paper, a **prospectus** will be due, outlining the topic and possible research ideas. Grading will be based on performance, including deductions for late and incomplete assignments. Grades must be earned, and substandard work will merit a substandard grade.

FINAL PAPER GUIDELINES:

The research paper should be 8-10 pages and conform to the following: **MLA format** (see the following site for specifics: <https://www.scribbr.com/mla/formatting/>); a

thesis statement at the beginning outlining the theme of the paper; **body of the paper** with subsections where appropriate; **citations** indicating author & page of source

used for information in the paper; a **conclusion** summing up and echoing the direction of the paper as outlined in the thesis statement; a **works cited page**

(bibliography) in MLA format, including approximately **3-5 sources** (a guideline) indicating where the student obtained information for the content of the paper. A

proposal (paper prospectus) for the theme paper should be submitted on the date indicated on the schedule below.

EVALUATION:

Attendance, Class Participation: 20% Topic Essay: 10%

Quizzes (6): 30% Term Paper: 20%

Paper Prospectus: 5% Final Exam: 15%

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

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

DATES

1/7,9 Introduction to Ethics

(1) What is the Purpose of Morality?

Goldman, Pojman, Hobbes

1/14,16 (2) Good and Evil

Melville, Dostoevsky, Styron, Hallie,

Nietzsche, Taylor

1/21,23 (3) Is Everything Relative?

Herodotus, Benedict, Rachels,

Midgley, Ibsen

QUIZ 1 [1,2]

(TUES, 1/21)

1/28,30 (4) Utilitarianism Wallace, Bentham, Mille, Nielsen,
Williams, Le Guin
SUBMIT PAPER
TOPIC [1/28]
2/4,6 (5) Deontological Ethics Kant, Frankena, Ross, Fried, Plato,
Rachels, Nagel
QUIZ 2 [3,4]
(TUES, 2/4)
2/11,13 (6) Virtue Ethics Aristotle, McIntyre, Mayo, Frankena,
Jesus, Tolstoy,
2/18,20 (6) Virtue Ethics Kant, Epictetus, Stockdale
2/25,27 (7) Feminist Ethics and the Ethics of Care Jaggar, Crosthwaite, Baier, Held QUIZ 3 [5,6]
(TUES, 2/25)
3/4,6 (8) Ethics and Egoism: Why Should We Be Moral? Plato, Rand, Pojman, Rachels
3/10-15 SPRING BREAK
3/18,20 (9) Does Life Have Meaning?
Voltaire, Epicurus, Frankl, Buddha,
Russell, Taylor
QUIZ 4 [7,8]
(TUES, 3/18)
3/25,27 (10) Sex, Love, and Marriage
Kant, McMurtry, Bayles, Steinbock,
Levin, Gallagher
TOPIC ESSAY DUE
(3/27)
4/1,3 (12) The Morality of Euthanasia Brock, Rachels, Steinbock QUIZ 5 [9,10]
(TUES, 4/1)
4/8,10 (13) War and Terrorism Narveson, Khatchadourian, Vall
4/15,17 (14) Our Duties to Animals
Orwell, Singer, Cohen, McPherson QUIZ 6 [12,13]
(TUES, 4/15)
4/22 (15) Our Duties to the Environment Heilbroner, Hardin, Baxter FINAL EXAM +
FINAL PAPER DUE
[TUES, 4/22]

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.