



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 014

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: Dr. Ryan Harte

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

All readings are available on Canvas.

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

There is no standalone attendance grade in this course. However, participation is 35% of your final grade—it is difficult to pass the course without a strong participation grade. And you cannot participate if you don't attend. I leave it up to you to manage your time on this point.

My general rule: no late work, no extensions. Please understand that this course is very large (and I teach two of them!). In order to keep everything running smoothly, we cannot allow late or extra work. Contact your IA or myself if you believe you have an extreme case, but be aware that just because you have a real conflict does not necessarily mean it is a legitimate excuse.

That said, there are **several extra credit events** available. They basically involve you attending ethics-related programs around campus. I will notify you of them as they appear. However, please understand that you are not entitled to extra credit. It is *extra*.

No laptops, e-readers, phones, or other electronics in class. Students are expected to take notes in a notebook. You're welcome to convert your notes to digital format, but do it outside of class.

GRADING & ASSIGNMENTS

Participation	35%
Journals	35% = 10% (left side) + 25% (right side)
Final Exam	20%
Quizzes	10%

PARTICIPATION (35%)

Once a week (Friday) you will attend a discussion section led by your assigned IA. This is your chance to ask questions and share criticisms and confusions about the readings for the week. You must come to these sections prepared to talk and listen and share. **Each week, your IA will upload a participation grade for you on Canvas ranging from 1 (worst) to 3 (best).** As long as you show up for the full class, you get 1 point. Here is what I mean by participation:

1. Ability to offer fruitful ideas and questions to the group. "Fruitful" does not mean "correct" or even "brilliant" or even "fully developed." **The key point is that when you speak, you contribute something pregnant that helps us shape our discussions.** This also means that talking a lot isn't automatically a good thing.
2. Ability to really **listen to your classmates and to respond to them** in a way that actually helps them develop their own ideas. Just saying, "I agree" does not do this. Here I include even basic things like looking at your classmates and using their names when you talk to them. Let's treat each other like full human beings.
3. Be willing to hear other points of view and maybe even change your mind. Philosophy is all about exploring and playing with ideas. Go into discussions humble.

NB: My aim is not to penalize folks who might be pathologically shy. If participation is an issue for you, come talk with your IA and we'll work it out—no worries.

QUIZZES (10%)

Usually quizzes will take place at the very beginning of your Friday discussion section. Sometimes we may do them at the beginning of lecture on Monday or Wednesday. **All the material needed to pass the quiz will be covered in the reading and lecture.** They should only take about 5–10 minutes. Short-answer questions. Be sure to bring pen to write with. *If you miss the discussion section when there is a quiz, it will hurt your grade. This is further reason to not miss classes.*

JOURNALS (35% = 10% (left side) + 25% (right side))

You will keep a journal throughout the semester of your notes from class and from reading at home. You'll also be asked to share your journaling every week as a record of your engagement and thought. The journals are supposed to “dialectical,” meaning a kind of back-and-forth conversation.

Sunday night before class (midnight, 12:00 a.m.)—LEFT SIDE

Submit a large, clear photo of your handwritten journal to Canvas. Divide the page in half. On the left side, write out the following:

- *at least TWO discussion questions to share with the class*
- *at least ONE passage from the readings that excited/confused/irritated/etc. you*
- *any other thoughts or concerns you have about the course material that week*

Saturday night (midnight, 12:00 a.m.)—RIGHT SIDE

Submit a large, clear photo of your handwritten journal to Canvas. This time, use the right half of the page to answer your own questions and respond to your own comments from the left half. This side should **show your notes from lectures, reading, and discussion.**

You must submit **both sides of the journal to receive full credit** for the week. You will be graded based on the following points:

- *How thoughtful and detailed are your discussion questions?*
- *Do your questions and comments show that you really did the reading, or are they superficial?*
- *Are your ideas neatly and coherently organized?*
- *Does your “right side” show that you engaged fully in class that week?*

FINAL EXAM (20%)

The final exam will be an in-class, handwritten exam. I will give you more information as we approach the date. Final Exams must be handwritten in official UVU green books.”

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

WEEK 1

Mon. 6 Jan. welcome • orientation • syllabus

Wed. 8 Jan. Deresiewicz, "What Is College For?"

Fri. 10 Jan. discussion section

WEEK 2

Mon. 13 Jan. Sophocles, *Antigone*

Wed. 15 Jan. Plato, *Republic*, "Simile of Light" + "Allegory of the Cave" (508b–520a)

Fri. 17 Jan. discussion section

WEEK 3

Mon. 20 Jan. NO CLASS—*Labor Day*

Wed. 22 Jan. Plato, *Apology*

Fri. 24 Jan. discussion section

WEEK 4

Mon. 27 Jan. Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*

Wed. 29 Jan. Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*

Fri. 31 Jan. discussion section

WEEK 5

Mon. 3 Feb. Hebrew Bible, *Book of Job*

Wed. 5 Feb. *Gospel of Matthew*, "Sermon on the Mount"

Fri. 7 Feb. discussion section

WEEK 6

Mon. 10 Feb. Confucius, *Analects*

Wed. 12 Feb. Zhuangzi, *Zhuangzi*

Fri. 14 Feb. discussion section

WEEK 7

Mon. 17 Feb. NO CLASS (*President's Day*)

Wed. 19 Feb. Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*

Fri. 21 Feb. discussion section

WEEK 8

Mon. 24 Feb. Mill, *Utilitarianism*

Wed. 26 Feb. MLK Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail"

Fri. 28 Feb. discussion section

WEEK 9

Mon. 3 Mar. Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*

Wed. 5 Mar. Scruton, "The Truth in Conservatism" (from *How to Be a Conservative*)

Fri. 7 Mar. discussion section

WEEK 10

Mon. 10 Mar.

Wed. 12 Mar. NO CLASSES (*Spring Break*)

Fri. 14 Mar.

WEEK 11

Mon. 17 Mar. Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*

Wed. 19 Mar. Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*

Fri. 21 Mar. discussion section

WEEK 12

Mon. 24 Mar. McCabe, "The Class Struggle and Christian Love"

Wed. 26 Mar. Kimmerer, "The Honorable Harvest"

EXTRA CREDIT:
"Healing Conversations"
Mar. 26 & 27

Fri. 28 Mar. discussion section

WEEK 13

Mon. 31 Mar. Jacobs, "79 Theses on Technology"

Wed. 2 Apr. Han, *The Burnout Society*

Fri. 4 Apr. discussion section

EXTRA CREDIT:
"Religion, Culture, & Diversity Symposium"

WEEK 14

Mon. 7 Apr. **No Class—Instead...** STUDENT ETHICS SYMPOSIUM

Wed. 9 Apr. Dostoevsky, "The Grand Inquisitor" (from *The Brothers Karamazov*)

Fri. 11 Apr. discussion section

WEEK 15

Mon. 14 Apr. Nietzsche, *On Genealogy of Morals*, First Essay

Wed. 16 Apr. *cont.*

Fri. 18 Apr. discussion section

WEEK 16

Mon. 21 Apr. TBD

Wed. 23 Apr. NO CLASS (*all UVU classes end*)

Fri. 25 Apr. - - -

WEEK 17

Mon. 28 Apr. Final Exam—9:00 am (10:00 class)

Wed. 30 Apr. Final Exam—11:00 a.m. (11:00 class)

[Mon. 5 May—final grades due]

Final exam will be in-class. **Students must bring one official UVU “green book”** (and pens) to write the exams. Exams written on anything else will not be accepted.

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

1. **ChatGPT and Other Online AI Learning Support Platforms.** Artificial intelligence (AI) language models, such as ChatGPT, and online assignment help tools, such as Chegg®, are examples of online learning support platforms: they cannot be used for course assignments except as explicitly authorized by the instructor. The following actions are prohibited in this course:
 - Submitting all or any part of an assignment statement to an online learning support platform;
 - Incorporating any part of an AI generated response in an assignment;
 - Using AI to brainstorm, formulate arguments, or template ideas for assignments;
 - Using AI to summarize or contextualize source materials;
 - Submitting your own work for this class to an online learning support platform for iteration or improvement.
 - **Unattributed use of online learning support platforms and unauthorized sharing of instructional property are forms of scholastic dishonesty and will be treated as such.**

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.