



PHIL 2025 Ethics and Values

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

Semester: Spring 2025

Year: 2025

Course Prefix: PHIL

Course and Section #: 2050-054

Course Description

This course challenges students to explore and clarify their values by critically reading 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: Andrew Israelsen

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

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, translated by Bartlett and Collins. ISBN-13 : 978-0226026756

Immanuel Kant, Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals, translated by Mary Gregor. ISBN-13 :978-1107401068

J.S. Mill, Utilitarianism. ISBN-13: 978-0872206052

Plato, Five Dialogues. Translated by Grube and Cooper, ISBN-13: 978-0872206335

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Attendance/Participation: 35%

Canvas Reading Quizzes: 10%

Midterm Exam: 10%

Paper 1: 10%

Paper 2: 15%

Final Exam: 20%

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

See Schedule

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Week One: Philosophy, Logic, and Arguments

Monday, Jan 6: Introductions, Overview of Philosophy, Syllabus – No Reading Assignment

Wednesday, Jan 8: Logic, Arguments and Critical Thinking – No Reading Assignment

Friday, Jan 10: Logic, Continued– No Reading Assignment

Week Two: Relativism, Egoism, and Utilitarianism

Monday, Jan 13: Normative Relativism. Reading Assignment: Mary Midgley, “Trying Out One’s New Sword” (Canvas)

Wednesday, Jan 15: Moral Egoism. Reading Assignment: Plato, Selections from Republic, “The Ring of Gyges” (Canvas)

-Quiz due on Canvas Thursday night

Friday, Jan 17: J.S. Mill. Reading Assignment: Mill, Utilitarianism, Chapter One

Week Three: Utilitarianism

Monday, Jan 20: NO CLASS—MLK Jr Day

Wednesday, Jan 22: J.S. Mill: Defining Utilitarianism, and the “Swine Objection” Reading Assignment: Utilitarianism, pgs 12-20

Friday, Jan 24: J.S. Mill: The Right to Happiness Objection and the Stringency Objection. Reading Assignment: Utilitarianism, pgs 12-20

Week Four: Utilitarianism

Monday, Jan 27: J.S. Mill: The Coldness Objection and the Calculation Objection. Reading Assignment: Utilitarianism, pgs 20-26

Wednesday, Jan 29: J.S. Mill: Sanctions for the Principle of Utility. Reading Assignment: Utilitarianism, Chapter 3

-Quiz due on Canvas Thursday night

Friday, Jan 31: J.S. Mill: Proof for the Principle of Utility. Reading Assignment: Utilitarianism, Chapter 4

Week Five: Utilitarianism and Plato

Monday, Feb 3: Utilitarianism critiqued. Reading Assignment: Bernard Williams, A Critique of Utilitarianism (Canvas), and Ursula K. LeGuin, “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas” (Canvas)

Wednesday, Feb 5: Plato, Defining Piety. Reading Assignment: Plato’s Euthyphro (in Five Dialogues)

Friday, Feb 7: Plato, The Euthyphro Dilemma. Reading Assignment: Review Plato’s Euthyphro as needed.

-Quiz due on Canvas Sunday night

Week Six: Plato

Monday, Feb 10: Plato, The Virtue of Socrates. Reading Assignment: Apology (in Five Dialogues)

Wednesday, Feb 12: Plato, Individual and Community. Reading Assignment: Crito (in Five Dialogues)

Friday, Feb 14: Socrates' Death. No Reading Assignment: Review Apology and Crito as needed.

Week Seven: Plato

Monday, Feb 17: NO CLASS: Presidents' Day

Wednesday, Feb 19: Plato, "What is Virtue?" Reading Assignment: Meno pages 59-78 (in Five Dialogues)

-Quiz due on Canvas Thursday night

Friday, Feb 21: Plato, "Can Virtue be Taught?" Reading Assignment: Meno pages 79-92 (in Five Dialogues)

Week Eight: Plato & Kant

Monday, Feb 24: Plato, "The Form of the Good" – Analogy of the Sun and Allegory of the Cave. Reading Assignment: Selections from Republic (pdf below)

Wednesday, Feb 26: Plato, Allegory of the Cave, continued. Reading Assignment: Review Plato readings for this week.

Friday, Feb 28: Kant: The Good Will. Reading Assignment: Groundwork, pgs 9-14

Week Nine: Kant

Monday, March 3: Kant: The Three Propositions of Duty. Reading Assignment: Groundwork, pgs 15-20

-Quiz due on Canvas Tuesday night

Wednesday, March 5: Kant: The Danger of Examples and Attempted Empirical Derivations of Morality. Reading Assignment: Groundwork, pgs 21-26

Friday, March 7: Kant: The Representation of Laws. Reading Assignment: Groundwork, pgs 26-34

Week Ten: NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK

Monday, March 10: SPRING BREAK

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.