



PHIL 2050: Ethics and Values

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 059

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: Devin Goold

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**. My advice is to print the readings whenever possible.

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

There is no standalone attendance grade in this course. However, participation is 30% of your final grade—you cannot 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 me 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*.

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PARTICIPATION (35%)

QUIZZES (10%)

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.

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are **your time**. Please feel free to stop by to chat. You do not need to have a specific question or anything brilliant to say! I am eager to work with you and get to know you. Use me as a resource or just some human contact.

GRADING & ASSIGNMENTS

Participation 35%

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

Final Exam 20%

Quizzes 10%

Participation will be graded two ways. One will be note checks every once and a while I do note checks that will be me just looking to see that you are taking notes and doing the in class writing I will be asking of you. The second part is me looking for how much you are in class and participating in it.

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.

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

FINAL EXAM (20%)

Quizzes will be in class. They should only take about 5–10 minutes. Short-answer questions. Be sure to bring pen to write with. *If you miss the section when there is a quiz, it will hurt your grade. This is further reason to not miss classes. I am willing to work with you if you miss but you must talk to me.*

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?*

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

This is our tentative and hopeful course schedule. **All readings are available on Canvas.** This schedule may change based on my discretion, but if that happens, I'll give you plenty of advance notice. Readings should be done **before** you come to class.

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WEEK 1

Tue. 8 Jan welcome • orientation • syllabus 23

Thu. 10 Jan Deresiewicz, “What Is College For?”

WEEK 2

Tue.14 Jan. Sophocles, *Antigone*

Thu. 16 Jan. Plato, *Republic*, “Simile of Light” + “Allegory of the Cave” (508b–520a)
WEEK 3

Tue. 21 Jan Plato, *Apology* Optional MLK Jr., “Letter from Birmingham Jail”
Thu. 23 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*
WEEK 4

Tue. 28. Jan Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*
Thu.30 Jan . No Class Instead go to **Kirk Englehardt Business Ethics Award & Luncheon**
Awardee: Susan Griffith, Timpanogos Legal Center
Title: “Justice for All: Ethical Perspectives on Accessibility to the Courts”
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
WEEK 5
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Tue. 4 Feb. Hebrew Bible, *Book of Job*
Thu. 6 Feb. *Gospel of Matthew*, “Sermon on the Mount”
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WEEK 6

Tue. 11 Feb. Dostoevsky, “The Grand Inquisitor” (from *The Brothers Karamazov*)
Thu. 13 Feb. Nietzsche, *On Genealogy of Morals*, First Essay Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*
WEEK 7

Tue. 18. Feb Laozi, *Dao de Jing*
Thu. 20 Feb. Confucius, *Analects*
WEEK 8

Tue. 25 Feb. Zhuangzi, *Zhuangzi*
Thu. 27 Feb. Buddha, *Pali Canon*
WEEK 9

Tue. 4 March. Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*
Thu. 6 March. Mill, *Utilitarianism*
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WEEK 10

Mon. 10-15 March. No class Spring Break
WEEK 11

Tue. 18 March. Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*
Thu. 20 March. Scruton, “The Truth in Conservatism”
(from *How to Be a Conservative*)
WEEK 12

Tue. 25 March. Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*

Thu 27 March. No class instead go to at least on session
of **Healing Conversations Symposium (Thursday, March 27th)**

Theme: “Bridging Social & Political Divisions”

10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Partners: Peace & Justice Studies Program

WEEK 13

Tue. 1 Api. Jacobs, “79 Theses on Technology”

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Thu. 3 Api. Han, *The Burnout Society*

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WEEK 14

Tue. 8 Api. Wall Kimmerer, “The Honorable Harvest” (from
Braiding Sweetgrass)

Thu. 10 Api. Escape The Echo Chamber C. Thi Nguyen

WEEK 15

Tue. 15 Api. **film:** *Everything Everywhere All At Once* (dir., “The Daniels,” 2022) [watch at home on Canvas then come to class as usual]

Thu. 17 Api. Wallace, “This Is Water”

WEEK 16

Tue. 22 Api. *Final Exam Review In-Class*

Thu. 24 Api. I am making this reading day use the time to study and work on other class finals

WEEK 17

TBD Final Exam

[May 5. final grades due]

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

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.**

Please cite any and every source you use in completing an assignment (including all articles, books, websites, etc.).

The professor will determine the punishment of any instance of cheating or plagiarism and depending upon the severity of the offense **can range from failing the assignment to failing the entire course. Please see me right away if you ever have questions or uncertainties regarding plagiarism.**

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.