



PHIL 205G: 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 #: 205G X04

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: Jorgen Hansen

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

- No required texts; all readings will be posted on Canvas.
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Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS TOWARD FINAL GRADE
A. Weekly Online Group Discussions	50
B. Reading/Power Point Summaries	50
C. Extra Credit	various point opportunities
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TOTAL	100+ Points

A. Weekly Online Group Discussions: Beginning on the second week of the semester, there will be a total of eleven online group discussions, which will be due (nearly) each week. Each assignment contains two components: (i) writing an initial, well thought out and in depth post about that week's prompt, which will be due two days before the listed due date by 11:59pm MST; AND (ii) responding with a well thought out and in depth response to at least 2 other student's initial posts, which will be due on on the listed due date by 11:59pm MST. The top ten scores will count towards the final grade and each assignment will be worth 5 points (2.5 points for the initial post and 2.5 points for the response posts). No late assignments accepted. Total: 50 points.

B. Reading/Power Point Summaries: During the semester, you will be required to turn in a 1-2 page, double-spaced summary of 10 readings and/or power points. **At least 5** must come from readings (i.e., the primary texts for the course). Each submission will be worth 5 points and will be graded off how thorough, concise, and well-written they are. (Basically, you want to show evidence that you did/read over the entire reading/power point and summarize the key information from that reading/power point in a way that shows attention to detail – e.g., insufficient summaries, summaries that are too short/long, typos, poor grammar, etc. can hurt your grade). Total: 50 points.

C. Extra Credit: There will be a few extra credit opportunities throughout the semester, so keep an eye out for announcements. (Students may also propose events on campus to attend, or other ideas, for extra credit.) Each student may complete as many extra credit opportunities as are approved or posted throughout the semester and the due date for all extra credit will be December 1st (so be sure to submit all extra credit beforehand). Some extra credit opportunities will have their own submission slot, but the rest should be submitted under the 'Extra Credit' Assignment under one document, which contains all extra credit write-ups.

Potentially Offensive Material:

Some of the material presented in this course contains descriptions and depictions of graphically violent events, including, but not limited to, descriptions of the killings during the Holocaust, "lynching" in the American South, the killing of non-human animals, and so forth. If you think that any of this material may be too offensive or upsetting, please talk to me (the instructor) in person after class, or during office hours, as early in the semester as possible so we can determine together whether this class is a suitable fit for you. You may also opt to do an alternate assignment, which will be determined through a discussion during office hours.

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

- [Week 0: Practice Discussion](#)

Jan 7

0 pts

Can't unpublish Week 0: Practice Discussion if there are student submissions

[Manage Week 0: Practice Discussion](#)

- Assignment

Week 1: Who Cares About Philosophy? + Moral Psychology

Jan 8

5 pts

Can't unpublish Week 1: Who Cares About Philosophy? + Moral Psychology if there are student submissions

[Manage Week 1: Who Cares About Philosophy? + Moral Psychology](#)

- Discussion Topic

Online Discussion #1

Jan 10

5 pts

Can't unpublish Online Discussion #1 if there are student submissions

[Manage Online Discussion #1](#)

- Assignment

Week 2: Plato's Discussion of Morality + Aristotle's Virtue Ethics

Jan 15

5 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Week 2: Plato's Discussion of Morality + Aristotle's Virtue Ethics.

[Manage Week 2: Plato's Discussion of Morality + Aristotle's Virtue Ethics](#)

- Discussion Topic

Online Discussion #2

Jan 17

5 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Online Discussion #2.

[Manage Online Discussion #2](#)

- Assignment

Week 3: Kant's Deontological Ethics + Mill's Utilitarianism

Jan 22

5 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Week 3: Kant's Deontological Ethics + Mill's Utilitarianism.

[Manage Week 3: Kant's Deontological Ethics + Mill's Utilitarianism](#)

- Discussion Topic

Online Discussion #3

Jan 24

5 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Online Discussion #3.

[Manage Online Discussion #3](#)

- Assignment

Week 4: Nietzsche's Metaethics

Jan 29

5 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Week 4: Nietzsche's Metaethics.

[Manage Week 4: Nietzsche's Metaethics](#)

- Discussion Topic

Online Discussion #4

Jan 31

5 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Online Discussion #4.

[Manage Online Discussion #4](#)

- Assignment

[Week 5: Chinese Philosophy and Human Nature + Evil](#)

Feb 5

5 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Week 5: Human Nature + Evil.

[Manage Week 5: Human Nature + Evil](#)

- Discussion Topic

[Online Discussion #5](#)

Feb 7

5 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Online Discussion #5.

[Manage Online Discussion #5](#)

- Assignment

[Week 6: The First Two Psychological Analyses of Evil: Arendt and Goldhagen](#)

Feb 12

5 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Week 6: The First Two Psychological Analyses of Evil: Arendt and Goldhagen.

[Manage Week 6: The First Two Psychological Analyses of Evil: Arendt and Goldhagen](#)

- Discussion Topic

[Online Discussion #6](#)

Feb 14

5 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Online Discussion #6.

[Manage Online Discussion #6](#)

- Assignment

[Week 7: The Third Analysis of Evil: Doris's Situationism](#)

Feb 19

5 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Week 7: The Third Analysis of Evil: Doris's Situationism.

[Manage Week 7: The Third Analysis of Evil: Doris's Situationism](#)

- Discussion Topic

[Online Discussion #7](#)

Feb 21

5 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Online Discussion #7.

[Manage Online Discussion #7](#)

- Assignment

[Week 8: Singer on Poverty + Bales on Slavery](#)

Feb 26

5 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Week 8: Singer on Poverty + Bales on Slavery.

[Manage Week 8: Singer on Poverty + Bales on Slavery](#)

- Discussion Topic

[Online Discussion #8](#)

Feb 28

5 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Online Discussion #8.

[Manage Online Discussion #8](#)

- Assignment

[Poverty Extra Credit](#)

Mar 1

0 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Poverty Extra Credit.

[Manage Poverty Extra Credit](#)

- Assignment

[Week 9: Gender Inequality + Women in the Media](#)

Mar 5

5 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Week 9: Gender Inequality + Women in the Media.

[Manage Week 9: Gender Inequality + Women in the Media](#)

- Discussion Topic

[Online Discussion #9](#)

Mar 7

5 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Online Discussion #9.

[Manage Online Discussion #9](#)

- Page

[Week 10: SPRING BREAK](#)

Published. Click to unpublish Week 10: SPRING BREAK.

[Manage Week 10: SPRING BREAK](#)

- Assignment

[Week 11: Human Treatment of Animals: Utilitarianism & Animal Experimentation](#)

Mar 19

5 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Week 11: Human Treatment of Animals: Utilitarianism & Animal Experimentation.

[Manage Week 11: Human Treatment of Animals: Utilitarianism & Animal Experimentation](#)

- Assignment

[Week 12: Deontology and Virtue Ethics on Animal Experimentation](#)

Mar 26

5 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Week 12: Deontology and Virtue Ethics on Animal Experimentation.

[Manage Week 12: Deontology and Virtue Ethics on Animal Experimentation](#)

- Discussion Topic

[Online Discussion #10](#)

Mar 28

5 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Online Discussion #10.

[Manage Online Discussion #10](#)

- Assignment

[Week 13: Food Ethics + Civil Disobedience](#)

Apr 2

5 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Week 13: Food Ethics + Civil Disobedience.

[Manage Week 13: Food Ethics + Civil Disobedience](#)

- Discussion Topic

[Online Discussion #11](#)

Apr 4

5 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Online Discussion #11.

[Manage Online Discussion #11](#)

- Assignment

[Week 14: Wrapping Up](#)

Apr 16

5 pts

Published. Click to unpublish Week 14: Wrapping Up.

[Manage Week 14: Wrapping Up](#)

- Discussion Topic

[Extra Credit Discussion](#)

Apr 18

0 pts

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Click here to enter text.

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

Click here to enter text.

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.