



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

Year: 2025
Course and Section #: 205G-X07

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: Dr. K Mizell

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

Ethics: Discovering Right and Wrong by Louis Pojman and James Fieser, 8th edition. The first two chapters are listed in the Canvas module until you can acquire the textbook. Other readings are posted on Canvas under either the author's name or the title of the reading.

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Grading and Course Requirements:

- Syllabus Quiz (20 points)
- Quizzes (600 points) 6 online quizzes worth 100 points each
- Discussions (375 possible points)

Discussion #1, (75 points)

Discussion #2 on What is Ethics? Gandhi, and Ethical Relativism, Ethical Egoism (75 + 25 = 100 points)

Discussion #3 on the video, I AM (75 + 25 = 100)

Discussion #4 on Hallie, Buddhism, Consequentialism, Utilitarianism, Deontology, Kant, Virtue Theory (75+25 = 100 points)

- Student Rating of Instructor (5 points extra credits)
- If relevant, late assignments will receive 80% of the possible grade and will not be accepted 1 week after the due date.

· Please note that Canvas figures your final grade in percentages and not an accumulation of points. When checking your grades, please total points and check against the total points breakdown below.

- All uploaded assignments are to be in pdf, doc, or docx format

Disclosure: On occasion we may address profound, sensitive, and sometimes disturbing moral issues and dilemmas. You may disagree with me and with others on points of belief, but please know we can engage in thoughtful and courteous discussions without agreement

on all issues. Every attempt will be made to address such issues with respect and thoughtfulness and students are expected to do the same.

Grading Criteria:

Intelligibility Can we understand what you are trying to say?

Clarity Is your writing clear? Do you express your points with precision?

Understanding Do you understand the writers and the issues well?

Support Do you support what you say with reasons and arguments?

Depth Do you get at the heart of the issues? Or does your writing show only a superficial understanding?

Total points possible for the semester– 1.000 points

A 1000-940; A- 939-900; B+ 899-870; B 869-830; B- 829-800; C+ 799-770; C 769-730; C- 729-700;

D+ 699-670; D 669-630; D- 629-600; E anything below 600.

Note: All aspects of this course are subject to change at the discretion of the professor. Any changes will be announced in class and, when possible, through Canvas. Please check Canvas for course announcements sent to your email in UV Link often, since this is the most effective way to communicate with you outside of class. The best way to communicate with me is through my UVU email and Canvas

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

See Schedule

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Provisional Schedule:

Date Topic Assigned Reading, Homework and Instructions

Week 1

January 6-12

Introductory Module: Syllabus/ Course Overview/ Introductory Questions/ Set up groups Watch: Course overview Read: How this (Online) Course Works Read: Syllabus Syllabus can be found on Canvas in the Introductory Module. Take the Quiz on the Syllabus Participate: Discussion #1 Introduce yourself
Week 2

January 13-19

Module 1: What is Ethics? Moral Communities Read: Pojman, Chapter 1, “What is Ethics?” (pdf) Read: “Justice for Hedgehogs” (listed on Canvas) Watch and listen: Power point with voice over: Online Introduction and Chapter 1 Watch: Video, “8 Laws of Change” Read: Gandhi –“Law of Love”(listed on Canvas) Read the notes: Gandhi – Satyagraha and the Law of Love How to Listen to the Gandhi Power Point with voice over Watch and Listen: Gandhi Power Point with voice over 2 Watch the Video: Gandhi Read: (optional) MoTzu

Week 3

January 20-January 26 Module 2 Ethical Relativism Read: Pojman chapter on Ethical Relativism (pdf) Read and watch: Ethical Relativism power point with voice over 2 Watch the Video: Moral Relativism Watch the Video: (optional) Moral Relativism Read: Mary Midgley, “Trying Out One’s New Sword (Canvas) Read: (optional) Mencius

Quiz #1 Take Quiz #1

Week 4

January 27 – February 2

Module 3 Ethical Egoism Moral Psychology Buddhism Quiz #2 Read: Pojman, Chapter on Egoism and Altruism Read and Watch: Ethical Egoism Powerpoint with voice over Watch: Ethical Egoism Watch: “Friends” Episode on selfless good deeds Watch: Every Man for Himself – Pirates of the Caribbean Participate: Discussion #2 on What is Ethics? Gandhi, Ethical Relativism, and Ethical Egoism (Answer the question whose number corresponds to the number I gave you earlier. Read: Hallie (pdf on Canvas) Watch: Hallie and the Problem of Cruelty Watch the Videos: Le Chambon During World War II; “Weapons of the Spirit” (excerpt) “Heroism of Le Chambon” Read: Buddhism and Death (pdf on Canvas) Watch: The Buddha Watch: Buddhism’s Four Noble Truths Watch: Attitudes toward Death Take: Quiz #2

Week 5

February 3 – February 9 Module 4 Watch the Video: “I Am” Participate: Discussion #3

Week 6

February 10-February 16

Module 4 Consequentialism and Utilitarianism Read: Pojman, Chapter on Utilitarianism; Watch: Video on Consequentialism Read and Watch: Utilitarianism power point Watch: Video on Utilitarianism Watch: Video on Utilitarianism from Crash Course Philosophy Watch: Videos on Trolley Problem Take Quiz #3

Quiz #3

Week 7

February 17-23

Deontology Read: Pojman Chapter on Deontology Read: (optional) Kant (pdf) Watch: Kant vs. Mill Watch: Kant and Deontology Watch: Kantian Ethics

Week 8

February 24 – March 2 Deontology, continued Bhagavad Gita Quiz #4 Watch: Kant and Categorical Imperative Read: Bhagavad Gita (pdf)– located on Canvas Read and Watch: Bhagavad Gita with voice-over power point Watch: Bhagavad Gita Made Easy Watch: 10 Lessons from Bhagavad Gita Watch: (Optional) Bhagavad Gita Quotes Take: Quiz #4

Week 9

March 3- March 9

Module 5 Virtue Theory Read: Pojman Chapter on Virtue Ethics Read: Aristotle, excerpt (pdf) Watch: Aristotle on Virtue Ethics Watch: Virtue Ethics Lecture power-point

Week 10
March 10 – March 16 Spring Break

Week 11
March 17 – March 23 Virtue Theory, continued Watch: Instructor Lecture: Aristotle on Virtue Ethics Read: Video Lecture Transcripts - Aristotle Watch: Father Kolbe Watch: Father Kolbe-2

Week 12
March 24 – March 30 Virtue Theory, continued Confucius Read: Confucius, excerpts from the “Analects” (pdf) located on Canvas Watch: Confucianism

Week 13
Quiz 5 Take: Quiz #5
March 31-April 6 Extra Credit: SRI (5 points no later than week 15)

Week 14
April 7 – April 13 Module 6 The Moral Domain: Animal Ethics and Environmental Ethics Read: “We Are All Related,” Eagle Man (marked pdf) Read: Eagle Man Commentary Read: “Walking Between Worlds,” Bruchac (pdf) Watch: (optional) 19th century American Indian Drum and Dance footage Read: Leopold (1949) The Land Ethics from Nash Watch: The Fierce Green Fire

Week 15
April 14 –
April 20 The Moral Domain, continued Read: “Divorce among the Gulls (marked pdf)” Read: Commentary on Divorce Among the Gulls Read: (optional) Speciesism Watch: Philip Wollen on the Environment Watch: Earthlings trailer Watch: (optional) Earthlings Picture of chimpanzee used in medical experiments who is now free Read: Explanation of Joanne MacArthur photo of Chimpanzee Participate: Discussion #4 on Hallie, Buddhism, Consequentialism, Utilitarianism, Deontology, Kant, Virtue Theory, and the Moral Domain

Week 16
April 21 – April 22
Last day of Class is April 23 Study Questions for Quiz 6
Finals Week
Take the final quiz by April 27
Quiz 6 Take Quiz 6 on the Moral Domain

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.