PHL202H Honors Ethics

I. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisite: None
3 semester hours credit

Honors Ethics stresses the nature of moral argumentation and the structure of moral reasoning. Background material on contemporary moral issues is provided for the student, and the student is then required to articulate well-structured moral positions. As an Honors course, extensive in-class participation is required of all students. Honors Ethics satisfies the same general education requirements as PHL202: Ethics, and fulfills part of the requirements for an Honors Certificate or Honors Diploma. (S)

II. GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

A. Demonstrate an understanding of significant moral principles relevant to ethical issues.

B. Analyze ethical problems through the application of related moral principles.

C. Show knowledge of diverse issues in ethics, such as animal rights, sexual morality, and euthanasia.

D. Demonstrate awareness of classic moral theories which may be applied in discussing ethical issues.

III. COURSE OUTLINE (Course content will be drawn from this.)

A. What is Ethics?

B. Kantian Ethics

C. Utilitarian Ethics

D. Aristotelian Ethics

E. Feminist Ethics

F. Ethical Egoism and Ethical Relativism

G. Justice Theory
IV. UNIT OBJECTIVES

A. What is Ethics?
   1. Define the domain of ethics

B. Kantian Ethics
   2. Identify key limitations to this approach.

C. Utilitarian Ethics
   1. Understand and apply both Act and Rule Utilitarian approaches to moral problem-solving.
   2. Identify key limitations to this approach.

D. Aristotelian Ethics
   2. Identify key limitations to this approach.

E. Feminist Ethics
   1. Understand and apply the Ethics of Care as an approach to moral problem-solving.
   2. Identify key limitations to this approach.

F. Ethical Egoism and Ethical Relativism
   1. Explain the key features of ethical egoism and ethical relativism.
   2. Identify key weaknesses in these positions.

G. Justice Theory
   1. Explain and apply the principles of Utilitarianism, Libertarianism, Liberalism and Marxism in addressing problems of justice.
   2. Identify the limits of these approaches.

H. Contemporary Issues in Ethics
   1. Become familiar with background information and common moral arguments concerning euthanasia.
   2. Become familiar with background information and common moral arguments concerning abortion.
   3. Become familiar with background information and common moral arguments concerning censorship.
   4. Become familiar with background information and common moral arguments concerning sexual harassment.
5. Become familiar with background information and common moral arguments concerning affirmative action.
6. Become familiar with background information and common moral arguments concerning smoking and drug legalization.
7. Become familiar with background information and common moral arguments concerning gun control.
8. Become familiar with background information and common moral arguments concerning capital punishment.
9. Become familiar with background information and common moral arguments concerning animal rights.
10. Become familiar with background information and common moral arguments concerning cloning.

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

A. Lectures

B. Class discussions, including consideration of particular problem situations in ethics

C. Video Presentations

D. Reading of Textbook

E. Ethics Research Paper

VI. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK


VII. REQUIRED MATERIALS (STUDENT)

Textbook

Access to a Typewriter/Word Processor

VIII. SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

A. Library Collection

B. Writing Center

C. Internet Access

IX. METHODS OF EVALUATION
A. Mid-term and Final exam
B. Research Paper
C. Two Essay Summaries
D. Class Participation
E. Attendance

The grading scale is as follows:
90-100  = A
80-89   = B
70-79   = C
60-69   = D
Below 60 = F