PHL202 ETHICS

I. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisite: None
3 semester hours credit

Ethics examines theoretical and practical questions of right and wrong. The course includes a survey of major theories of ethics, as well as an examination of contemporary ethical issues such as censorship, animal rights, warfare, the death penalty, affirmative action, and economic justice. This course will partially fulfill the humanities requirement for the Associate of Arts degree. (F,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
H. Contemporary Issues in Ethics

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 capital punishment.
7. Become familiar with background information and common moral arguments concerning animal rights.
8. Become familiar with background information and common moral arguments concerning just war theory.

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)

A. Textbook
B. Access to a typewriter/word processor

VIII. SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

A. Library collection
B. Writing Center
C. Internet access

IX. METHODS OF EVALUATION

A. Tests and final exam
B. Research Paper
C. Class participation

D. Attendance

The grading scale is as follows:

- 90-100 = A
- 80-89 = B
- 70-79 = C
- 60-69 = D
- Below 60 = F