

College of Arts and Humanities, PHIL 2030 section E01: Introduction to Ethics, summer 2020 (May-mester)

Instructor: Dr. Robert Lane

Class Meeting/Time & Location: **100% Online**

Westga email: rlane@westga.edu

[Please use this email address only in case of emergency; in normal circumstances, please email me through the CourseDen email system.]

Support for courses

*Hyperlinks provided for accessibility throughout; full URLs are available at the end of the document.

[CourseDen D2L Home Page](#)

[D2L UWG Online Help](#) (8 AM – 5 PM)
Call: 678-839-6248 or 1-855-933-8946 or
email: online@westga.edu

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counseling@westga.edu

Course Information

Course Description

An introduction to the central concepts in ethics and an exploration of such contemporary ethical issues as abortion, genetic engineering, euthanasia, and capital punishment. Required for the major in Philosophy.

Required Texts

- *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, by James Rachels and Stuart Rachels
 - The **8th edition** (2015) is preferred, but you may also use the 9th edition (2019). When the online Lecture Notes cites a page from this book, citations will be of the 8th edition.
- *The Right Thing to Do: Basic Readings in Moral Philosophy*, edited by James Rachels and Stuart Rachels
 - The **7th edition** (2015) is preferred, but you may also use the 6th edition (2012) or the 8th edition (2019). When the online Lecture Notes cites a page from this book, citations will be of the 7th edition.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, each student will be able to

- recognize and apply basic patterns of logical reasoning within ethical contexts;
- describe selected theories within meta-ethics and normative ethics, as well as selected arguments for and against those theories;
- describe positions and facts relevant to selected issues within applied ethics (such as abortion, physician-assisted suicide, capital punishment, world poverty, and animal rights);
- summarize the contributions of historically important figures (such as J. S. Mill and Immanuel Kant) to ethical thought;
- discuss the ethical theories and issues explored in the course.

These course-specific learning outcomes contribute to the departmental learning outcomes of the Philosophy Program by enabling students better to

- discuss the views of at least three major historical figures of philosophy.
- critically analyze and explain a philosophical issue in written communications.

Graded Assignments

Assignment name	Description	Due Date	Points
Quizzes on Readings and Lecture Notes	<p>Each quiz consists of 10 multiple choice questions. You will have 12 minutes to complete each quiz. One attempt per quiz.</p> <p>There is one quiz per Module [11 quizzes total; your lowest quiz grade will be dropped]</p> <p>10 quizzes x 10 points each = 100 points</p>	<p>Week 1: Quizzes 1, 2, & 3 due by 12pm noon on Tuesday May 12</p> <p>Week 2: Quizzes 4, 5, & 6 due by 12pm noon on Sunday May 17</p> <p>Week 3: Quizzes 7, 8 & 9 due by 12pm noon on Friday May 22</p> <p>Week 4: Quizzes 10 & 11 due by 12pm noon on Tuesday May 26</p>	100
<p>Online Discussion:</p> <p>Post at least <i>three</i> responses in each week's discussion (except four week 4: only <i>two</i> responses required)</p>	<p>See each Discussion for instructions and the Discussion Grading Rubric for how you will be graded.</p> <p>4 Discussions x 24 points each = 96 points</p>	<p>Week 1 Discussion (covers Modules 1–3) due before midnight on Monday May 11</p> <p>Week 2 Discussion (covers Modules 4–6) due before midnight on Saturday May 16</p> <p>Week 3 Discussion (covers Modules 7–9) due before midnight on Thursday May 21</p>	96

Assignment name	Description	Due Date	Points
		Week 4 Discussion (covers Modules 10–11) due before midnight on Monday May 25	
Short Papers	Four short papers. See each Assignment Folder for instructions and the Grading Rubric for Short Papers for how you will be graded. 4 papers x 32 points each = 128 points	Week 1 Short Paper due before midnight on Tuesday May 12 Week 2 Short Paper due before midnight on Sunday May 17 Week 3 Short Paper due before midnight on Friday May 22 Week 4 Short Paper due before midnight on Tuesday May 26	128
TOTAL	--	--	324

Grading Information and Policy

Grading structure and point scale

291-324 points	90% - 100%	A
259 points - 290 points	80% - 89%	B
226 points - 258 points	70% - 79%	C
194 points - 225 points	60% - 69%	D
< 193 points	< 60%	F

You must score **100%** on the **syllabus quiz** (located in the Orientation Module) before you can access the rest of the course. However, you may take the syllabus quiz multiple times.

Grading Rubrics

[Discussion Board Rubric](#)

[Short Paper Rubric](#)

Please see the [Common Language for Course Syllabi](#) for official information on UWG's Academic Integrity Policy. I *will* enforce this policy.

Note the following, from UWG's Credit Hour Policy: "The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks." This means that for this compressed, 19-day online course, **you should plan to spend around 6 hours each day doing work that is relevant to this class:** reading, studying, taking quizzes, reading and posting on the discussion boards, and writing.

Communication

Ways to Reach Me

- **Email.** You may email me with any questions or concerns. Please **always use the email system that is WITHIN CourseDen**. Do not send email to my UWG account unless it is an emergency or you cannot access CourseDen. NEVER email me from a non-UWG account; school policy prohibits me from responding to student emails that come from non-UWG accounts. I will return all emails **within 24 hours**, and usually much more quickly than that if you email me between 9am and 5pm.
- **Video conferencing (by appointment).** I can use **FaceTime, Zoom**, or (my preferred app) **Google Hangouts** (integrated into your UWG email account). **I will usually be available for video chat appointments seven days a week between 9am and 5pm. To make an appointment to chat, please email at least a day ahead of time if possible.** However, if you email me before noon on a given day, I will probably be able to make a same-day appointment to chat with you.
- **Telephone (by appointment).** I am also available for telephone conversations. Just email me to set up an appointment for a phone conversation.

Online Etiquette

Communication in an online class takes special consideration. Please read the short list of tips below:

- Be sensitive and reflective to what others are saying.
- Don't use all caps. It is the equivalent of screaming.
- Don't flame - These are outbursts of extreme emotion or opinion.
- Think before you hit the post (enter/reply) button. You can't take it back!
- Don't use offensive language.
- Use clear subject lines.
- Don't use abbreviations or acronyms unless the entire class knows them. Avoid acronyms that are common in texting (like "LOL" and "SMH").
- Be forgiving. Anyone can make a mistake.
- Keep the conversation friendly and professional.

Expected Response Times to Online Discussions, Short Papers and Quizzes

I will check how the conversation is going in each **Discussion Board** at least once per day and will provide feedback, correction, and guidance as needed. Your contributions to the Discussion Boards will be graded within 2 days of the due date of your final post for a given week. I will do my best to grade all **Short Papers** within 2 days of the due date. **Quizzes** are graded automatically.

Emergencies

If you have an emergency, you can reach me at my UWG email address: *rlane@westga.edu*, which I check multiple times each day, including on the weekend. Your email must come from your own UWG email account; UWG policy prohibits me from responding to student emails that come from non-UWG addresses.

Class Schedule

Week	Begin Date	End Date	Topic/Activity/Reading Assignment	Assignment Name & Due Date **
1	Friday May 8 2020	Tuesday May 12 2020	<p>Start Here Module, Online Introductions</p> <p><u>Module 1: Ethics & Ethical Arguments</u> Read: EMP ch.1, RTD* ch.2 Study: Lecture Notes #1 Watch: 2 videos (optional) Validity Soundness</p> <p><u>Module 2: Cultural Relativism</u> Read: EMP ch.2; RTD ch.32 Study: Lecture Notes #2 Watch: 4 videos (optional) Breaking Polygamy How the FLDS Church Impacted... Interview with FGM victims</p>	<p>May 8: Open drop/add, available on Banweb until midnight.</p> <p>Syllabus Quiz: you must complete this quiz before accessing the rest of the course</p> <p>Modules 1, 2 and 3: 3 Discussion Posts, made on at least 2 different days, due before midnight on Mon. 5/11/20 Students MUST post in the Week 1 online discussion by no later than 11:59pm on Sun. 5/10/20. Students who do not do so may be</p>

Week	Begin Date	End Date	Topic/Activity/Reading Assignment	Assignment Name & Due Date **
			<p>Letter from Birmingham Jail</p> <p>Module 3: Morality and Religion Read: EMP ch.4 (secs.1, 2 and 4 only) Study: Lecture Notes #3 Watch: 1 video (optional): Morality Comes from God</p>	<p>dropped for non-attendance.</p> <p>Module 1: Quiz #1: due Tues. 5/12/20 by 12pm noon</p> <p>Module 2: Quiz #2: due Tues. 5/12/20 by 12pm noon</p> <p>Module 3: Quiz #3: due Tues. 5/12/20 by 12pm noon</p> <p>Modules 1, 2 and 3: 1 Short Paper: due before midnight on Tues. 5/12/20</p>
2	Weds. May 13	Sunday May 17	<p>Module 4: Utilitarianism & Euthanasia Read: EMP ch.7, RTD ch.37 Study: Lecture Notes #4 Watch: 5 videos (optional): Utilitarianism Pt.1 Terri Schiavo Active Euthanasia in Belgium The Brittany Maynard Story Jack Kevorkian & the Right to Die</p> <p>Module 5: Utilitarianism & World Poverty Read: EMP ch.8 (secs 8.1 and 8.2 only); RTD ch.5; RTD ch.18 Study: Lecture Notes #5 Watch: 4 videos (optional): Hedonism & the Experience Machine Interview with Peter Singer Singer on "Famine, Affluence & Morality" TED Talk: Peter Singer</p> <p>Module 6: Utilitarianism & Animals Read: RTD ch.15 & ch.16 Study: Lecture Notes #6 Watch: 3 videos (optional): Cruelty to Hens Live Fast Die Young Singer tackles Objections to Vegetarianism</p>	<p>Friday May 15: Last day to withdraw with a "W" grade ends at midnight. Students withdrawing after midnight will receive a grade of WF.</p> <p>Modules 4, 5 and 6: 3 Discussion Posts, made on at least 2 different days, due before midnight on Sat. 5/16/20</p> <p>Module 4: Quiz #4: due Sun. 5/17/20 by 12pm</p> <p>Module 5: Quiz #5: due Sun. 5/17/20 by 12pm</p> <p>Module 6: Quiz #6: due Sun. 5/17/20 by 12pm</p> <p>Modules 4, 5 and 6: 1 Short Paper: due before midnight on Sun. 5/17/20</p>
3	Monday	Friday	Module 7: Kant and Absolute	Modules 7, 8 and 9:

Week	Begin Date	End Date	Topic/Activity/Reading Assignment	Assignment Name & Due Date **
	May 18	May 22	<p>Rules Read: EMP ch.9, RTD ch.8 Study: Lecture Notes #7 Watch: 2 videos (optional): The Good Life: Kant Kant's Axe</p> <p><u>Module 8: Kant and Respect for Persons</u> Read: EMP ch.10 Study: Lecture Notes #8</p> <p><u>Module 9: Capital Punishment</u> Read: RTD ch.20 and ch.21 Study: Lecture Notes #9 Watch: 2 videos (optional): Stephen Bright on Indigent Defense NBC News: Troy Davis execution</p>	<p>3 Discussion Posts, made on at least 2 different days, due before midnight on Thurs. 5/21/20</p> <p>Module 7: Quiz #7: due Fri. 5/22/20 by 12pm</p> <p>Module 8: Quiz #8: due Fri. 5/22/20 by 12pm</p> <p>Module 9: Quiz #9: due Fri. 5/22/20 by 12pm</p> <p>Modules 7, 8 and 9: 1 Short Paper: due before midnight on Fri. 5/22/20</p>
4	Saturday May 23	Tuesday May 26	<p><u>Module 10: Abortion: Pro-Life</u> Read: RTD ch.13 Study: Lecture Notes #10</p> <p><u>Module 11: Abortion: Pro-Choice</u> Read: RTD ch.14 Study: Lecture Notes #11 Watch: 2 videos (optional): Abortions after 6 weeks illegal in Georgia The Violinist</p>	<p>Modules 10 and 11: 2 (not 3) Discussion Posts, made on 2 different days, due before midnight on Mon. 5/25/20</p> <p>Module 10: Quiz #10: due Tues. 5/26/20 by 12pm</p> <p>Module 11: Quiz #11: due Tues. 5/26/20 by 12pm</p> <p>Modules 10 and 11: 1 Short Paper: due before midnight on Tues. 5/26/20</p>

***Note:** Chapter citations of RTD (*The Right Thing to Do*) are of the 7th ed. If you are using the 6th or 8th edition, see the detailed [Course Schedule](#) for correct chapter numbers as well as chapter authors and titles.

****Note:** All times are EST. Dates may change at the instructor's discretion: all changes will be posted in the News/Announcements section of CourseDen. Major assignments, papers, and exams are in bold.

Late work policy

- There are no extensions for **Quizzes**—all quizzes must be completed by the due date, no exceptions.
- There are no extensions for **Discussion Board posts** – each week's discussion closes at 11:59pm and no late submissions will be allowed.

- Each of the four **Short Papers** will be accepted up to two days late, **but with a 20% grade penalty for each day that it is late**. For example, the first paper is due on Tuesday May 12. I will accept it on Wednesday May 13 for a 20% penalty and on Thursday May 14 for a 40% penalty.

Expectations of Students

- You **must** be willing to devote about **6 hours each day to doing work for this course**: reading the assignments from your textbooks, studying the online lecture notes, watching the optional videos (if you choose to do so), contributing to the message boards, and writing short papers.
- You **must** stay on top of the schedule of work for this course and be aware of all deadlines.
- The **textbooks and lecture notes** are essential elements of the course. You must study that material just as you would study for a regular, in-person class, before taking the online quizzes that cover that material. The online quizzes will not cover the **optional videos**, but you may integrate information from the videos into your discussion board posts and your short papers.
- The **online discussions** are a central part of this course where we will explore the concepts introduced in the reading assignments and lecture notes. The online discussions will involve active learning in which you will apply what you have been learning in original ways and in response to your peers. You are required to make at least three substantial contributions in each online discussion and to read the posts of your peers and your professor. The [grading rubric](#) for the online discussions are found in the Orientation Module.

Course and UWG Policies

Attendance Policy

In order to distribute Title IV funding (federal student aid), student attendance verification is required. For this online class, **students are required to post in the first Weekly Discussion Board by no later than 11:59pm on Sunday May 10** to be considered as attending class. Students who do not do so may be dropped from the class for non-attendance. Students who add classes during drop/add are responsible for ensuring that they are verified as being in attendance by contacting the course instructor and participating in the online discussion.

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement

If you are a student who is disabled as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act and require assistance or support services, please seek assistance through the [Center for Disability](#). UWG also provides [Accessibility Statements for Technology](#) that you may be required to use for this course.

For more information on the Americans with Disabilities Act, UWG Email, Credit Hour, and UWG Honor Code policies as well as information on Academic Tutoring, Student Services, and Technical Requirements, Privacy Policy, and Accessibility Statements, please see the [Common Language for Syllabus](#) document.

I strongly recommend that students make an electronic copy of everything submitted to me via the CourseDen.

Additional Support Information

Technical Support

Technical support for CourseDen, as well as the technological requirements, accessibility

statements, privacy statements, tutorials, and other information can be found at [UWG Online Student Help](#).

Center for Academic Success

The new [Center for Academic Success](#) (CAS) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. The CAS offers free appointment-based peer tutoring in core courses, as well as supplemental instruction (SI)—which is peer-facilitated collaborative learning—in a variety of disciplines. Students seeking help with study skills and strategies can attend workshops through the Academic Success Workshop series, or work individually with either a staff or peer Academic Coach. Beginning Fall 2014, the CAS will also offer “Back on Track,” a voluntary academic recovery program designed for students who want to improve their grades and academic standing. The Center for Academic Success is located in UCC 200, and can be reached at 678-839-6280. Our email address is cas@westga.edu.

Student Services

Here is a great resource of [Student Services](#) for all students at UWG, whether or not they are taking online courses. This link provides students with most of the information they need. If a student is experiencing distress and needs some help, check out [UWG Cares](#).

Full URL Support for Courses

- **CourseDen D2L Home Page**
<https://westga.view.usg.edu/>
- **D2L UWG Online Help** (8 AM – 5 PM)
<http://uwgonline.westga.edu/students.php>
online@westga.edu
- **24/7/365 D2L Help Center**
<https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/>
- **University Bookstore**
<http://www.bookstore.westga.edu/>
- **Common Language for Course Syllabi**
<https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php>
- **UWG Cares**
<http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/>
- **Center for Disability**
<https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php>
- **Student Services**
<http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php>
- **Center for Academic Success**
<http://www.westga.edu/cas/>
- **Distance Learning Library Services**
- <https://www.westga.edu/library/resource-sharing.php>
- **Ingram Library Services**
<http://www.westga.edu/library/>
- **Proctored Exams**
<http://uwgonline.westga.edu/exams.php#student>
- **Student Services**
<https://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php>
- **UWG Accessibility Statements for Technology**
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/16Ri1XqaXiGx28ooO-zRvYPraV3Aq3F5ZNJYbVDGVnEA/edit?ts=57b4c82d#heading=h.yrqeffvts1f>