

College of Arts and Humanities
Philosophy Program (Dept. of English and Philosophy)

Introduction to Ethics (PHIL 2030)

Instructor: Dr. Robert Lane

Summer 2020 Section E02 3 Credits 6/1/2020 to 6/25/2020

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.

Requisites

Prerequisites: None.

Co-requisites: None.

Contact Information

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 (rlane@westga.edu) 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 one 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, at least on weekdays.

Telephone (by appointment)

I am also available for telephone conversations. Just email me to set up an appointment for a phone conversation.

Meeting Times

This course is **100% Online**. There is no synchronous instruction – in other words, there are no times at which you must be at your computer.

Materials

The Elements of Moral Philosophy

Authors: James Rachels and Stuart Rachels

Edition: 8th

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

Editors: James Rachels and Stuart Rachels

Edition: 7th

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.

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.

Evaluation

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

Assignments

You must score 100% on the Syllabus Quiz (located in the Orientation Module) before you can access the rest of the course. You may take the Syllabus Quiz multiple times.

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 Sunday June 7</p> <p>Week 2: Quizzes 4, 5, & 6 due by 12pm noon on Saturday June 13</p> <p>Week 3: Quizzes 7, 8 & 9 due by 12pm noon on Friday June 19</p> <p>Week 4: Quizzes 10 & 11 due by 12pm noon on Thursday June 25</p>	100
<p>Online Discussion:</p> <p>Post at least <i>three</i> responses in each week's discussion.</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 Saturday June 6</p> <p>Week 2 Discussion (covers Modules 4–6) due before midnight on Friday June 12</p> <p>Week 3 Discussion (covers Modules 7–9) due before midnight on Thursday June 18</p> <p>Week 4 Discussion (covers Modules 10–11)</p>	96

Assignment name	Description	Due Date	Points
		due before midnight on Wednesday June 24	
Short Papers	<p>Four short papers. See each Assignment Folder for instructions and the Grading Rubric for Short Papers for how you will be graded.</p> <p>4 papers x 32 points each = 128 points</p>	<p>Week 1 Short Paper due before midnight on Sunday June 7</p> <p>Week 2 Short Paper due before midnight on Saturday June 13</p> <p>Week 3 Short Paper due before midnight on Friday June 19</p> <p>Week 4 Short Paper due before midnight on Thursday June 25</p>	128
TOTAL	--	--	324

Schedule

Week	Begin Date	End Date	Topic/Activity/Reading Assignment	Assignment Name & Due Date **
1	Monday June 1 2020	Sunday June 7 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 Letter from Birmingham Jail</p> <p><u>Module 3: Morality and Religion</u> Read: EMP ch.4 (secs.1, 2 and 4 only) Study: Lecture Notes #3</p>	<p>June 1: 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 3 different days, due before midnight on Sat. 6/6/20 Students MUST post in the Week 1 online discussion by no later than 11:59pm on Thurs. 6/4/20. Students who do not do so may be dropped for non-attendance.</p> <p>Module 1: Quiz #1: due Sun. 6/7/20 by 12pm noon</p>

Week	Begin Date	End Date	Topic/Activity/Reading Assignment	Assignment Name & Due Date **
			<p>Watch: 1 video (optional): Morality Comes from God</p>	<p>Module 2: Quiz #1: due Sun. 6/7/20 by 12pm noon</p> <p>Module 3: Quiz #1: due Sun. 6/7/20 by 12pm noon</p> <p>Modules 1, 2 and 3: 1 Short Paper: due before midnight on Sun. 6/7/20</p>
2	Monday June 8	Saturday June 13	<p><u>Module 4: Utilitarianism & Euthanasia</u> 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><u>Module 5: Utilitarianism & World Poverty</u> 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><u>Module 6: Utilitarianism & Animals</u> 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>Thursday June 11: 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 3 different days, due before midnight on Fri. 6/12/20</p> <p>Module 4: Quiz #4: due Sat. 6/13/20 by 12pm</p> <p>Module 5: Quiz #4: due Sat. 6/13/20 by 12pm</p> <p>Module 6: Quiz #4: due Sat. 6/13/20 by 12pm</p> <p>Modules 4, 5 and 6: 1 Short Paper: due before midnight on Sat. 6/13/20</p>
3	Sunday June 14	Friday June 19	<p><u>Module 7: Kant and Absolute Rules</u> Read: EMP ch.9, RTD ch.8 Study: Lecture Notes #7 Watch: 2 videos (optional): The Good Life: Kant Kant's Axe</p>	<p>Modules 7, 8 and 9: 3 Discussion Posts, made on 3 different days, due before midnight on Thurs. 6/18/20</p> <p>Module 7:</p>

Week	Begin Date	End Date	Topic/Activity/Reading Assignment	Assignment Name & Due Date **
			<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>Quiz #7: due Fri. 6/19/20 by 12pm</p> <p>Module 8: Quiz #8: due Fri. 6/19/20 by 12pm</p> <p>Module 9: Quiz #9: due Fri. 6/19/20 by 12pm</p> <p>Modules 7, 8 and 9: 1 Short Paper: due before midnight on Fri. 6/19/20</p>
4	Saturday June 20	Tuesday June 25	<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: 3 Discussion Posts, made on 3 different days, due before midnight on Weds. 6/24/20</p> <p>Module 10: Quiz #10: due Thurs. 6/25/20 by 12pm</p> <p>Module 11: Quiz #11: due Thurs. 6/25/20 by 12pm</p> <p>Modules 10 and 11: 1 Short Paper: due before midnight on Thurs. 6/25/20</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.

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 Sunday June 7. I will accept it on Monday June 8 for a 20% penalty and on Tuesday June 9 for a 40% penalty.

Course Policies and Resources

Expectations of Students

- You **must** be willing to devote about **5 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 is found in the Orientation Module.

Attendance

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 Thursday June 4** 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.

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

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.

Institutional Policies

See the version of this Syllabus posted in Concourse for updated University policies, including:

- Online Courses
- Academic Support
- The Honor Code
- UWG Email Policy
- Credit Hour Policy
- HB 280 (Campus Carry)
- Mental Health Support