



**Course Name: Introduction to Ethical Conflicts**

**Course Number: PHI 145**

**Course Department: LAS**

**Course Term: Spring 2018**

**Last Revised by Department: July 2017**

**Total Semester Hour(s) Credit: 3**

**Total Contact Hours per Semester:**

Lecture: 45    Lab:            Clinical:            Internship/Practicum:

**Catalog Description:** This course explores contemporary ethical conflicts as a way to develop students' critical thinking skills. Students will examine various moral theories and their application to ethical problem-solving by the use of case studies. Students will determine principles upon which to base their ethical decision making.

**Pre-requisites and/or Co-requisites:** None

**Textbook(s) Required:** Thiroux, Jacques. & Kraseman, Keith. *Ethics: Theory and Practice*. 11<sup>th</sup> ed. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2011. Print. ISBN: 13:978-0-205-05314-8

**Access Code:** None

**Materials Required:** This course will make use of iNet for course assignments and communication. Computer/Internet access are required. Computer labs are available on campus if you do not have a computer at home. Students should come to class prepared with textbook, pen and paper, and other relevant course materials. You must use Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome in order to successfully submit assignments in iNet. These programs are free and the ICCC Helpdesk can assist you in downloading them if needed.

**Suggested Materials:** You may find the following websites useful.

The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy – <https://plato.stanford.edu>

Guidelines on Reading Philosophy – <http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/reading.html>

Jonathan Bennett's Simplified Texts -- <http://www.earlymoderntexts.com>

**Institutional Outcomes:**

**Critical Thinking:** The ability to dissect a multitude of incoming information, sorting the pertinent from the irrelevant, in order to analyze, evaluate, synthesize, or apply the information to a defensible conclusion.

**Effective Communication:** Information, thoughts, feelings, attitudes, or beliefs transferred either verbally or nonverbally through a medium in which the intended meaning is clearly and correctly understood by the recipient with the expectation of feedback.

**Personal Responsibility:** Initiative to consistently meet or exceed stated expectations over time.

**Department/Program Outcomes:**

1. Students will analyze diverse perspectives in arts and humanities.
2. Students will examine cultural similarities and differences relevant to arts and humanities.
3. Students will demonstrate their ability to create, interpret and/or perform diverse genres of the visual and performing arts.
4. Students will analyze ways that arts and humanities impact or apply to their own lives.
5. Students will demonstrate personal accountability both in and out of the classroom.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. The student will analyze numerous ethical theories.
2. The student will analyze ethical decision-making by using a case study approach.
3. The student will examine how ethics affect us personally and socially
4. The student will apply various methods of moral decision-making and justify decisions made.
5. The student will explain an ethical issue in writing.

**Course Objectives:**

- Unit 1: Ethics and Morality
  - a. Define ethics and other related terms important to the study of ethics.
  - b. Examine the four major approaches to morality
  - c. Examine the origins of morality
  - d. Think about the value of morality
- Unit 2: Ethical Theories
  - a. Explain consequential, non-consequential, and virtue theories of ethical decision-making including:
    1. Ethical Egoism
    2. Utilitarianism
    3. Care Ethics
    4. Kantian Ethics
    5. Ross's Prima Facie Duties
    6. Divine Command Theory
    7. Kant's Ethics
    8. Aristotle's Ethics

- 9. Confucian analects
- 10. Modern Virtue Ethics
- b. Differentiate between act and rule theories of ethical decision-making
- c. Analyze and apply ethical theories in relation to specific case study scenarios
- Unit 3: Applications
  - a. Consider ways of evaluating ethical theories
  - b. Examine the following issues in applied ethics
    - i. The Taking of Human Life
    - ii. Allowing Someone to Die
    - iii. Abortion
    - iv. Lying, Cheating, Breaking Promises, and Stealing
    - v. Morality, Marriage, and Human Sexuality
  - c. Analyze and apply ethical theories to specific case study scenarios

**College Procedures:** All college-wide procedures are located in the Iowa Central Community College Student Handbook.

**Assessments:**

Short papers (four total) – 40%  
 Quizzes – 10%  
 Class attendance/discussion participation – 5%  
 Midterm – 20%  
 Final Exam – 25%

Please note that assessments are subject to change.

**Non-discrimination Statement:**

It is the policy of Iowa Central Community College not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age (employment), sexual orientation, gender identity, creed, religion, and actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code §§ 216.6 and 216.9, Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d and 2000e), the Equal Pay Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 206, et seq.), Title IX (Educational Amendments, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 – 1688), Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794), Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (34 CFR Part 110), and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.).

If you have questions or complaints related to compliance with this policy, please contact Kim Whitmore, Director of Human Resources, phone number 515-574-1138, whitmore@iowacentral.edu; or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661, phone number 312-730-1560, fax 312-730-1576.

**Disability/Accommodation Services:**

If you have a request for an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, it is Iowa Central's policy that you contact the Academic Assistance & Accommodations Coordinator to discuss your specific needs and to provide supporting information and documentation, so we may determine appropriate accommodations. The office for accommodations is located in the Academic Resource Center, and it can be reached by calling 515-574-1045. For online information about accommodations, please go to [www.iowacentral.edu/accommodations](http://www.iowacentral.edu/accommodations).

### **Bias-Free Classroom Statement:**

Introduction to Ethical Conflicts maintains high standards of respect in regard to individual beliefs and values when selecting classroom materials including textbooks, project activities, power points, videos, presentations, and classroom discussions.

It is our belief that all people have the right to obtain an education within our department/program courses free of bias, with full respect demonstrated to all who enroll in the courses of this department/program.

### **Schedule of Readings and Activities: (all page numbers refer to the textbook)**

#### **UNIT ONE – Ethics and Morality**

Jan. 17 – Introduction to the Course

*Reading:* David Schmitz, "The Language of Ethics" (optional)

Jan. 22 – What is Morality? What is Ethics?

*Reading:* Ch. 1, pp. 1-11

Jan. 24 – Where does morality come from? And why do we need it?

*Reading:* Ch. 1, pp. 11-25

#### **UNIT TWO – Ethical Theories**

##### **Consequentialist Theories**

Jan. 29 – Egoism

*Reading:* Ch. 2, pp. 30-37

Jan. 31 – Utilitarianism

*Reading:* Ch. 2, pp. 37-41

Feb. 5 – Utilitarianism cont.

*Reading:* "What Utilitarianism Is", John Stuart Mill (online)

Feb. 7 – Care Ethics

*Reading:* Ch. 2, pp. 41-42

Feb. 9 – FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE (submit online)

### **Non-consequentialist (Deontological) Theories**

Feb. 12 – Act Theories, Intuitionism; Rule Theories, Divine Command Theory

*Reading:* Ch. 3, pp. 46-49

Feb. 14 – Kant’s Ethics

*Reading:* Ch. 3, pp. 50-57

Feb. 19 – Kant cont.

*Reading:* “Good Will, Duty, and the Categorical Imperative”, Immanuel Kant (online)

Feb. 20 – SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE (submit online)

### **Virtue Ethics**

Feb. 21 – Aristotle’s Ethics

*Reading:* Ch. 4, pp. 61-63

Feb. 26 – Aristotle cont.

*Reading:* *Nicomachean Ethics*, Bk. 1 (online)

Feb. 28 – Confucianism

*Reading:* Ch. 4, pp. 63-67

Mar. 5 – Modern Virtue Ethics

*Reading:* Ch. 4, pp. 68-73

Mar. 7 – Midterm

Mar. 12-16 – SPRING BREAK

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### **UNIT THREE – Applications**

Mar. 19 – Evaluating Ethical Theories

*Reading:* Ch. 8, pp. 138-144

Mar. 21 – Basic Ethical Principles

*Reading:* Ch. 8, pp. 144-155

### **The Taking of Human Life**

Mar. 26 – Suicide  
*Reading:* Ch. 9, pp. 160-164  
QUIZ 4

Mar. 28 – Capital Punishment  
*Reading:* Ch. 9, pp. 171-176

### **Allowing Death**

Apr. 2 – Euthanasia, Arguments Against  
*Reading:* Ch. 10, pp. 183-188  
QUIZ 5

Apr. 4 – Euthanasia, Arguments For  
*Reading:* Ch. 10, pp. 189-193

### **Abortion**

Apr. 9 – Arguments Against  
*Reading:* Ch. 11, pp. 224-232  
QUIZ 6

Apr. 11 – Arguments For  
*Reading:* Ch. 11, pp. 232-238

Apr. 13 – THIRD SHORT PAPER DUE (submit online)

### **Lying, Cheating, Promises, etc.**

Apr. 16 – Lying and Cheating  
*Reading:* Ch. 12, pp. 244-257  
QUIZ 7

Apr. 18 – Breaking Promises and Stealing  
*Reading:* Ch. 12, pp. 257-266

### **Morality, Marriage, and Human Sexuality**

Apr. 23 – Sex and Freedom  
*Reading:* Ch. 13, pp. 270-278  
QUIZ 8

Apr. 25 – Marriage  
*Reading:* Ch. 13, pp. 278-285

Apr. 30 – Pornography and Prostitution  
*Reading:* Ch. 13, pp. 285-289  
QUIZ 9

May 1 – FOURTH SHORT PAPER DUE (submit online)

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May 2 – Review  
*Reading:* none  
QUIZ 10

May 7 – FINAL EXAM