

COURSE # PHIL 2050

Ethics and Values

*2018-2019*

**Instructor**

**Instructor:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Office Hours:**

**Course**

## Course Description

***This is a Concurrent Enrollment Course, offering both high school credit through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ High School and college credit through Utah Valley University. Credit from this course is transferable to all colleges and universities. Contact the receiving institution for how the credits will be applied.***

**Catalog Description**

Challenges students to (1) explore and clarify their values; (2) critically read works of philosophy, literature, religion, and history toward understanding the basis of their ethical views; and (3) read, study, research, discuss, and write about difficult ethical issues. Focuses on issues of good vs. evil, justice vs. injustice, equality vs. inequality, and the necessity of defining and examining happiness and values. Engages students in serious reflection on issues of ethics and values as they relate to the students' own lives.

**Course Prerequisites**

This class is available to all high school seniors in good academic standing. High school prerequisites apply.

* Be a high school senior.
* Complete English 1010 with a C- or better.
  + Or official ACT test scores of 29+ in English **AND** 29+ in Reading.
  + OR earned ENGL 1010 credit by scoring 3 or higher on the AP English Language or AP English Literature Exam.
  + AP exam scores must be submitted and recorded at UVU prior to prerequisite deadlines.

## Course Objectives or Learning Outcomes

Ethics and Values is an interdisciplinary humanities class that satisfies the core General Education humanities requirement at Utah Valley University. Ethics and Values classes provide a solid basis of moral/ethical theory, and also incorporate interdisciplinary content such as film, literature, history, religion, psychology, art, and sciences in order to enrich and develop the theories examined and help demonstrate their relevance to everyday life.

For information on **UVU General Education*,*** please see: <http://uvu.edu/gened/essential/index.html>

In this class, students will survey the philosophical tradition of ethics and apply its theories and vocabulary

to original analysis of contemporary political and social dilemmas. Please see our reading schedule below for a detailed sketch of the course material that we will cover.

1. Critical thinking

Students will gain the ability to explain and evaluate basic reasons and arguments

2. Communication

Students will gain the ability to explain basic ethical ideas and arguments in writing and speech

3. Content

Students will understand some foundational ethical themes, and recognize the diversity of ethical approaches and moral systems

4. Values

Students will begin a process of self-reflection on their own values and beliefs and apply these values and beliefs to practical contexts.

**Required Text and Materials**

● *Living Ethics: An Introduction* First Edition, Michael Minch & Christine Weigel

● Online Resources (linked or indicated)

● Printed hand-outs (as indicated)

**Department Policies**

**Assessment**

Regular attendance is necessary for the successful completion of this course

**Readings and Assessment**

**Unit I -** Intro to ethics

● What is philosophy?

○ ethics, metaphysics, aesthetics, epistemology

○ metaethics, normative ethics, applied ethics

○ Case study: car insurance

● Universal, absolute and relative

○ Herodotus: Custom Is King (page 184)

○ James Rachels - handout

○ Plato’s Cave (page 159)

○ Case study: female genital mutilation

**Unit II** - Greek Philosophers: ‘doing right’ or ‘living well’

● Plato’s Crito

● Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics (page 347)

● Epicurus (page 587 )

● The Enchiridion of Epictetus

**Unit III** - Asian Philosophies: ‘doing right’ or ‘living well’

● Confucius - handout

● Laozi & Zhuangzi - handouts

● Tich Nhat Hanh – handout

**Quarter II**

**Unit IV** - Religion and Ethics

● The Christian Hegemony

○ Plato Baptized - Augustine (page 159)

○ Aristotle Baptized - Aquinas (page 113)

● Spectrum of Religious Epistemologies

○ Euthyphro and Divine Command

○ atheism, secular humanism, social gospel/progressive, evangelicalism

○ Religion and Science - Ian Barbour handouts

● Case Study: “Islam is a Religion of Peace” - Intelligence Squared

**Unit V** - Intellectual Paradigm Shift: The Scientific Revolution and Modern Moral Philosophy

● Descartes

● Hume - handout

● Kant (page 45)

● Mill (page 51)

**Quarter III**

**Unit VI -** Kant and Mill in the context of War

● Anscombe and Truman (James Rachels Handout)

● Case Study: Torture

● Just War Theory (When Soldiers Aren’t Heroes - page 288)

● Pacifism – handouts

**Unit VII -** The Right to Swing My Fist: Social Contract Theory

● Locke (page 220)

● Hobbes (page 216)

● Rousseau (page 222)

● Libertarianism and Self-Ownership

● Case study: immigration policies

**Unit VIII** - Rights and Liberty

● Status and Instrumental Rights

● Positive and Negative Liberty (Handout excerpts from Isaiah Berlin’s *Four Essays on Liberty)*

● Case study: Should recreational drugs be legal? (handouts)

● Case study: What laws, if any, ought to restrict abortion?

● Case study: What laws, if any, ought to restrict physician-assisted suicide? (Peter Singer)

● Case study: Do animals have rights? (Kant, Singer, and…)

● Case study: What laws, if any, ought to restrict ownership and use of guns?

**Quarter IV**

**Unit IX -** What is Justice?

● Procedural, Retributive, Restorative

● Case study: Death Penalty

○ Kant (handout)

○ Pojman (handout)

**Unit X** - Economic (distributive) justice

● Adam Smith (pages) and *I, Pencil*

● Karl Marx (pages) and *Inequality for All* (Netflix)

● Rawls and Nozick in contrast (pages 238, 244)

● The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase Profits - by Milton Friedman

● Peter Singer - handout and (page 248)

*● What Money Can’t Buy* - case excerpts from Michael Sandel

**Unit XI** - Breaking the Tie: alternatives to Kant and Mill

● Existential ethics (page 567)

● Alasdair MacIntyre and Contemporary Virtue Ethics (page 123)

● Feminist Care Ethics

● The Science of Morals – handouts

**Unit XII** - Nature and Ethics

● Bioengineering and the naturalistic fallacy

● Issues in ecology

● Thoreau, The Monkey Wrench Gang, and Tim DeChristopher

**Unit XIII -** The Unexamined Life is not Worth Living

● Reconsidering Crito

● Summative Case Study: Adolf Eichmann and ethical judgments

**Grading Scale**

A = 100-95 B - = 83-80 D+ = 69-67

A - = 94-90 C+ = 79-77 D = 66-64

B+ = 89-87 C = 76-74 D - = 63-60

B = 86-84 C - = 73-70 F = 59-0

**Grades and Credit**

Your grade for this class will become part of your permanent college transcript and will affect your GPA. A low grade in this course can affect college acceptance and scholarship eligibility.

Grades are determined by instructors, based upon measures determined by the instructor and department and may include: evaluation of responses, written exercises and examinations, performance exercises and examinations, classroom/laboratory contributions, mastery of pertinent skills, etc. The letter grade “A” is an exceptional grade indicating superior achievement; “B” is a grade indicating commendable mastery; “C” indicates satisfactory mastery and is considered an average grade; “D” indicates substandard progress and insufficient evidence of ability to succeed in sequential courses; “E” (failing) indicates inadequate mastery of pertinent skills or repeated absences from class.

**University Policies**

**Academic Integrity**

Utah Valley University expects all students to maintain integrity and high standards of individual honesty in academic work, to obey the law, and to show respect for others. Students of this class are expected to support an environment of academic integrity, have the right to such an environment, and should avoid all aspects of academic dishonesty. Examples of academic dishonesty include plagiarizing, faking of data, sharing information during an exam, discussing an exam with another student who has not taken the exam, consulting reference material during an exam, submitting a written assignment which was authored by someone other than you, and/or cheating in any form.

In keeping with UVU policy, evidence of academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade in the course and disciplinary review by the college.  Any student caught cheating will receive, at minimum, zero points on that particular assignment for the first offense.  A second offense can result in failing the course and will entail being reported to Student Advising.  Academic dishonesty includes, in part, using materials obtained from another student, published literature, and the Internet without proper acknowledgment of the source.   Additional information on this topic is published in the student handbook and is available on the UVU website.

### **Student Code of Conduct**

All UVU students are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner acceptable at an institution of higher learning. All students are expected to **obey the law**, to **perform contracted obligations**, to **maintain absolute integrity and high standards** of individual honesty in academic work, and to observe a **high standard of conduct for the academic environment**.

The Student Rights and Responsibilities Code, or Code of Conduct, outlines for students what they can expect from the University and what the University expects of them.

Students should review their Rights and Responsibilities. The Code of Conduct also outlines the process for academic appeals, and appeals related to misconduct and sanctions. It can be found at <http://www.uvu.edu/studentconduct/students/>

**Student Responsibilities**

You are expected to take an active role in the learning process by meeting course requirements as specified in written syllabi. Faculty members have the right to establish classroom standards of behavior and attendance requirements. You are expected to meet these requirements and make contact with faculty members when unable to do so.

**Withdrawal Policy**

If you do not wish to take this course or find that you are unable to continue, you should officially withdraw by the deadline stated in the current semester UVU Student Timetable.

You can officially withdraw from a course by dropping it through the online registration system or the campus One Stop desk (BA 106) by the listed date. If you officially withdraw from a course by the "Last Day to Drop and Not Show on Transcript," the course will not appear on your academic transcripts. If you officially withdraw from a course by the "Last Day to Withdraw," a "W" will appear on your transcripts. Although your GPA will not be affected — a "W" will indicate that you chose to withdraw. If you fail to complete the course and do not drop it before the "Last Day to Withdraw," a "UW" or "E" (a failing grade) will appear on your transcripts.

Withdrawing from a course may impact your financial aid status. For more information, see: UVU Financial Aid.

**Cheating and Plagiarism Policy Procedures**

This document was taken from the Utah Valley University Policy 541, The Student Rights and Responsibilities Code

5.4.4 Each student is expected to maintain academic ethics and honesty in all its forms, including, but not limited to, cheating and plagiarism as defined hereafter:

1) Cheating is the act of using or attempting to use or providing others with unauthorized information, materials, or study aids in academic work. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, passing examination answers to or taking examinations for someone else, or preparing or copying another's academic work.

2) Plagiarism is the act of appropriating another person's or group's ideas or work (written, computerized, artistic, etc.) or portions thereof and passing them off as the product of one's own work in any academic exercise or activity.

3) Fabrication is the use of invented information or the falsification of research or other findings. Examples include but are not limited to:

a) Citation of information not taken from the source indicated. This may include the incorrect documentation of secondary source materials.

b) Listing sources in a bibliography not used in the academic exercise.

c) Submission in a paper, thesis, lab report, or other academic exercise of falsified, invented, or fictitious data or evidence, or deliberate and knowing concealment or distortion of the true nature, origin, or function of such data or evidence.

d) Submitting as your own any academic exercise (written work, printing, sculpture, etc.) prepared totally or in part by another.

### **Students with Disabilities**

**Students who need accommodations because of a disability** may contact the UVU Office of Accessibility Services (OAS), located on the Orem Campus in LC 312. To schedule an appointment or to speak with a counselor, call the OAS office at 801-863-8747. Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals, email [nicole.hemmingsen@uvu.edu](https://owa.uvu.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=r3xUa4y2bkalWljgIj1VXM3KzYlusNIIESMqIpkF5USfG-H3cUMstYl8DNScKc_quB49PvOQ-l0.&URL=mailto%3anicole.hemmingsen%40uvu.edu) or text 385-208-2677.

**Religious Accommodations**

At the beginning of each semester, you shall promptly review the course syllabus and class schedule and notify faculty to request an accommodation for sincerely held religious beliefs and practices using the *Religious Accommodation Request Form*.

**Dangerous Behavior**

The faculty member has the right to demand and secure the immediate removal of any person from the classroom whenever the faculty member determines, to the best of his or her knowledge or belief, that the person's actions are threatening or dangerous to students or themselves. If the faculty member cannot resolve a disruptive situation, the faculty member may request that the disruptive person(s) leave the classroom. If the disruptive person(s) will not leave voluntarily, the faculty member may call University Police for assistance. The incident shall be reported to the Dean of Students and to the Director of Judicial Affairs in accordance with Policy 541 *Student Rights and Responsibilities Code*.

**Discriminatory, Exclusionary, or Disruptive Behavior**

Faculty members observing discriminatory, exclusionary, or disruptive behavior follow procedures described in UVU Policy 541 *Student Rights and Responsibilities Code.* 5.6

**Attendance**

Attendance in this class is not mandatory due to the different learning preferences with each student. However, class will be held according to the schedule on the top of this syllabus. Chapters will be covered in class as listed in the semester schedule below. Class will consist of chapter reviews, discussion and group activities.

**Policies/References**

1. Policy 541: Student Rights and Responsibilities Code <https://www.uvu.edu/catalog/current/policies-requirements/student-rights-and-responsibilities.html>
2. Policy 601: Classroom Instruction and Management. <https://policy.uvu.edu/getDisplayFile/5750ed2697e4c89872d95664>
3. Policy 635: Faculty Rights and Professional Responsibilities. <https://policy.uvu.edu/getDisplayFile/563a40bc65db23201153c27d>

**Definitions**

* 1. Syllabus: An agreement between faculty and students that communicates course structure, schedule, student expectations, expected course outcomes, and methods of assessment to students.

### **Dropping the Class**

### \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the last day to drop the course without it showing on your transcript.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the last day to withdraw from the class.   
If you drop the high school class, you must also withdraw from the UVU class to avoid receiving a failing grade.

Due dates and this syllabus may change at the instructor’s discretion due to the needs of the class members.