Course Syllabus

Department: Humanities

Date: 12/14/13

I. Course Prefix and Number: PHL 103

   Course Name: Ethics

   Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours and 3 contact hours

   Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites: supporting data required for grade prerequisite of 'C-' or higher.

This course offers an introduction to Ethics. The primary ethical question is, “What is the best life, and how can I live it?”

In reply to the primary ethical question this course evaluates the two foundational approaches to ethics, teleology (consequentialism) and deontology. Teleological approaches justify a behavior by judging the consequence which it produces; the ends justify the means. Deontological approaches begin by understanding the moral essence of the ethical agent and unpack the implications thereof; the means justify the ends. Understanding the difference in these emphases is central to meta-ethics.

There exist eight distinct ethical theories found within the Western Philosophy. Those theories are as follows: egoism, hedonism, naturalism (Virtue Theory), utilitarianism, Kantianism, relativism, contractualism and theologism (Divine Command Theory). The first four of these theories (egoism, hedonism, naturalism and utilitarianism) are teleological approaches. The second four (Kantianism, relativism, contractualism and theologism) are deontological approaches.

Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum including SUNY Gen Ed designation if applicable:

This course fulfills a Liberal Arts or General Elective in AA, AS, and AAS degree programs.

II. Course Student Learning Outcomes: State the student learning outcome(s) for the course (e.g. Student will be able to identify…)

Students will evaluate and discuss readings on ethics in order to apply these theories to current relevant dilemmas, which may be either personal or social in scope.

College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course: (check each College Learning Outcome addressed by the Student Learning Outcomes)

   x☐ writing   x☐ computer literacy
   ☐ oral communications   x☐ ethics/values
II. Assessment Measures (Summarize how the college and student learning outcomes will be assessed): For each identified outcome checked, please provide the specific assessment measure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List identified College Learning Outcomes(s)</th>
<th>Specific assessment measure(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Students will write critical and analytical source-based essays.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Students will demonstrate the ability to comprehend, interpret, analyze, and evaluate representative works on ethics as a philosophical notion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td>Students will compose essays demonstrating reasoned argumentation focused on central ethical concerns.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Literacy</td>
<td>Students will write their work in electronic formats.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethics/Values</td>
<td>Students will write papers and engage in discussions focused on the ways ethics reflect our personal, communal, and professional values.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Resources</td>
<td>Students will use library databases to assist with the research and composition of essays and presentations.</td>
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IV. Instructional Materials and Methods

Types of Course Materials:

Anthologies and/or individual texts in ethical study

Methods of Instruction (e.g. Lecture, Lab, Seminar …):

Lecture, discussion, in-class writing, group work

V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

- Studying individual primary texts related to the ethical concepts and movements
- Finding, reading, discussing, evaluating, and incorporating critical analyses into discussion and formal writing projects.