PHIL 100  Ethics in Society  

Common Course Outline

Course Information

Description
This course studies the foundations for moral beliefs, judgments, and values and the part they play in practical ethical judgments. In its application, the course deals with contemporary issues and explores specific issues of personal morality as well as business and social ethics. Prerequisite: Must have a score of 78 or higher on the Reading Comprehension portion of the Accuplacer test or completion of READ 0090. (MNTC 6, 9: Humanities and Fine Arts, Ethical & Civil Responsibility.)

Total Credits 3.00
Total Hours 48.00

Types of Instruction

Instruction Type Credits
Lecture 3

Pre/Corequisites

Prerequisite Must have a score of 78 or higher on the Reading portion of the Accuplacer test or completion of READ 0090.

Institutional Core Competencies

1 Analysis and inquiry: Students will demonstrate an ability to analyze information from multiple sources and to raise pertinent questions regarding that information.
2 Critical and creative thinking: Students will develop the disposition and skills to strategize, gather, organize, create, refine, analyze, and evaluate the credibility of relevant information and ideas.
3 Ethical reasoning and action: Students will develop ethical and social responsibility to self and others, and will collaborate with others to address ethical and social issues in a sustainable manner.

External Standards

Title MN Transfer Goals

Target Standards

Goal 6: The Humanities and Fine Arts - To expand students' knowledge of the human condition and human cultures, especially in relation to behavior, ideas, and values expressed in works of human imagination and thought. Through study in disciplines such as literature, philosophy, and the fine arts, students will engage in critical analysis, form aesthetic judgments, and develop an appreciation of the arts and humanities as fundamental to the health and survival of any society. Students should have experiences in both the arts and humanities.
Goal 9: Ethical and Civic Responsibility - To develop students' capacity to identify, discuss, and reflect upon the ethical dimensions of political, social, and personal life and to understand the ways in which they can exercise responsible and productive citizenship. While there are diverse views of social justice or the common good in a pluralistic society, students should learn that responsible citizenship requires them to develop skills to understand their own and others' positions, be part of the free exchange of ideas, and function as public-minded citizens.

9a - Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
9b - Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
9c - Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
9d - Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.

Course Competencies

1  Demonstrate an understanding of basic ethical concepts.
   Learning Objectives
   Explain moral concepts including culpability, values, rights and obligations.
   Determine which moral concepts are applicable to actual and theoretical ethical issues.
   Apply relevant moral concepts to the issues in question.

2  Evaluate different metaethical positions and explain their implications for moral reasoning.
   Learning Objectives
   Define Moral Realism (Universalism), Moral/Cultural Relativism, and Inter-Subjectivism.
   Assess the implications of each metaethical position on the status of ethics and the practice of moral reasoning.

3  Explain and employ the moral theory of Deontology (Duty Ethics).
   Learning Objectives
   Describe the Categorical Imperative and Kant's criteria for moral permissibility.
   Contrast Kant's view of duty-based ethics with consequentialist moral theories.
   Apply Deontology to actual and theoretical ethical dilemmas.

4  Explain and employ the moral theory of Utilitarianism.
   Learning Objectives
   Describe the Principle of Utility, including the difference between Bentham and Mill's understanding of the concept.
   Distinguish between Act and Rule Utilitarianism and identify the implications of each approach.
   Contrast Utilitarianism with duty- and rights-based approaches to ethics.
   Apply Utilitarianism to actual and theoretical ethical dilemmas.

5  Explain and employ the moral theory of Virtue Ethics.
   Learning Objectives
   Describe the main features of Virtue Ethics (virtues, vices, habituation, the Golden Mean).
   Contrast Aristotle's character-based approach to ethics with consequentialist and duty-based theories.
   Apply Virtue Ethics to actual and theoretical ethical dilemmas.

6  Employ ethical concepts and theories to analyze a personal moral dilemma.
   Learning Objectives
   Describe a personal situation which raises substantive moral issues.
   Identify moral theories and concepts which are relevant to the situation.
   Analyze the situation; determine and defend the most ethical course of action.

7  Employ ethical concepts and theories to analyze a professional moral dilemma.
Learning Objectives
Describe an ethical dilemma in a future (intended or possible) professional career.
Summarize relevant portions of a Code of Ethics for the profession in question.
Identify relevant moral theories and concepts.
Determine and defend the most ethical course of action.

8 Analyze controversial social issues using ethical theories and concepts.

Learning Objectives
Summarize the factual background of the issue (relevant historical, cultural, legal and political aspects).
Describe the range of ethical positions taken on the issue.
Determine and defend a personal position on the issue.

9 Demonstrate the capacity to think philosophically about ethical issues.

Learning Objectives
Differentiate between an opinion (based on intuition or a personal preference) and a philosophical position
(supported by arguments and evidence).
Analyze ethical issues using credible evidence and logical arguments.
Distinguish between religious (faith-based) and secular (non-religious) arguments for and against ethical positions.

SCC Accessibility Statement
If you have a disability and need accommodations to participate in the course activities, please contact your
instructor as soon as possible. This information will be made available in an alternative format, such as Braille,
large print, or cassette tape, upon request. If you wish to contact the college ADA Coordinator, call that office
at 507-389-7222.

Disabilities page http://southcentral.edu/academic-policies/disability-rights.html