



South Central College

PHIL 100 Ethics in Society

Common Course Outline

Course Information

Description	This course studies the foundations for moral beliefs and values and the part they play in practical ethical judgments. After providing a general introduction to moral concepts and theories, the course covers a wide range of social problems through an analysis of power, privilege, and justice. The class is organized by overarching themes of race, social class, gender, and global concerns and addresses issues involving criminal justice, economic inequality, gender differences, and sexuality. (Prerequisite: Must have a score of 78 or higher on the Reading Comprehension portion of the Accuplacer test or completion of READ 0090) (MNTC Goal Areas 7, 9)
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Total Credits	3
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Total Hours	48
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Types of Instruction

Instruction Type	Credits/Hours
Lecture	3 / 48

Pre/Corequisites

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

1. Demonstrate an understanding of basic ethical concepts.

Learning Objectives

Explain moral concepts including culpability, values, rights, and obligations.
Define the concept of justice and its relevance to moral reasoning.
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. Evaluate the impact of privilege and disadvantage in contemporary culture.

Learning Objectives

Define the concepts of privilege and disadvantage.
Identify ways in which they (students) experience privilege and/or disadvantage.
Explain how privilege and disadvantage violate the principle of justice.
Evaluate the degree to which society has an obligation to compensate for disadvantage.

7. Analyze the concept of race and its relevance to ethical issues in contemporary society.

Learning Objectives

Examine the concept of "race" from biological and sociological perspectives.
Identify ways in which racial privilege impacts American society.
Describe the significance of race in the criminal justice system.
Evaluate different proposals for addressing racial disparities.

8. Analyze the concept of social class and its relevance to ethical issues in contemporary society.

Learning Objectives

Examine the concept of "social class" and the role it plays in American society.
Identify the impact of class privilege and disadvantage on American citizens.
Describe the significance of social class in the criminal justice system.
Evaluate different proposals for addressing income and wealth inequality.

9. Analyze the concepts of gender and sexual orientation and their relevance to ethical issues in contemporary society.

Learning Objectives

Define "sex" and "gender" from biological and sociological perspectives.
Differentiate between gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity.
Identify ways in which gender- and sexual-orientation-based privilege impact contemporary society.
Articulate a view on the moral status of sex and its implications for society.
Evaluate different proposals for addressing discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation.

SCC Accessibility Statement

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