

ETHICS AND SOCIETY (PHILOSOPHY 103)



Tuesday/Thursday 9:30 AM – 10:55 AM

Section 2641 | Room SOCS 205

Fall 2017 | August 29 – December 14 | No class Thursday, November 23

Instructor: Mr. Fike | Office: ARTB 320 | Office hours: by appointment | Email: lfike@elcamino.edu
Course handouts webpage: <http://www.elcamino.edu/myecc> | Mr. Fike's webpage: www.larryfike.net

Course Description:

This course offers a critical study of the ethical theories and their application to problems of modern society. Ethical issues in government and law, social institutions, the arts, and international relations will be emphasized.

Course Objectives:

1. Analyze and apply various sources of moral standards to specific moral problems.
2. Explain the difficulties of basing moral standards on supernaturalism, utility, reason, or egoism.
3. Determine whether moral values are relative to culture or universally applicable.
4. Analyze the concept of justice and determine whether it is defined by the laws of society or if justice is established by universal standards.
5. Distinguish teleological from deontological ethical theories by applying them to current issues in the media.
6. Compare the solutions to contemporary moral dilemmas resulting from the application of a teleological (consequentialist) versus a deontological (formalism) approach in areas such as euthanasia and physician assisted suicide.
7. Evaluate ethical theories that either preclude or allow for free choice such as psychological Hedonism and ethics based on supernaturalism.
8. Differentiate varying notions of freedom and their impact on moral responsibility.
9. Discuss the relationship between ethical theory and metaphysics.
10. Examine the relationships among the concepts of freedom, responsibility, and theories of punishment.
11. Describe the different forms of Hedonism and relate them to contemporary moral problems.
12. Trace the development of ethical theory, from the Greeks to contemporary moral theory, and apply these theories to various contemporary moral dilemmas.
13. Differentiate among various meta-ethical theories.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to identify the primary moral theories, including Kantian duty ethics, Utilitarianism, and Virtue Ethics, distinguish the primary difference between the theories, and evaluate the strengths and weakness of each theory.
2. Students will be able to apply moral theories, including those of Utilitarianism, Kantian duty ethics, and Virtue Ethics to contemporary moral issues.
3. Students will be able to critically evaluate facts and arguments of both sides of contemporary moral issues.

Required Texts:

- (i) Vaughn, Louis. *Contemporary Moral Arguments: Readings in Ethical Issues*, Second Edition (Oxford University Press, 2012), ISBN: 9780199922260.
- (ii) Student Resources for the above volume:
<https://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780199922284/student/>
- (iii) Online texts and classroom handouts.



Supplies: Carry your textbook, a No. 2 pencil, and an 815-E Scantron to each class meeting. 882-E for exams.

Assessment:

Student success in demonstrating the anticipated course outcomes will be assessed by means of the following:

1. Term paper (150 points): A draft is due on Nov. 9 if you wish a critique; paper due Dec. 14.
2. Quizzes (100 points): These occur frequently and are intended to identify progress and needs.
3. Exam 1 (200 points): September 28.
4. Exam 2 (200 points): November 2.
5. Group work (100 points): December 12.
6. Final Exam (250 points): December 14.

It is possible to earn 1,000 points in the course.

Grade Scale:

- A (940-1000)
- A- (900-939.99)
- B+ (870-899.99)
- B (830-869.99)
- B- (800-829.99)
- C+ (770-799.99)
- C (730-769.99)
- C- (700-729.99)
- D+ (670-699.99)
- D (630-669.99)
- D- (600-629.99)
- F (0-599.99)

Attendance:

Attendance is required. If you accumulate more than six absences, please withdraw yourself from the course. If you are absent for more than two consecutive class meetings without contacting the instructor, you may be dropped from the course by the instructor, although the responsibility for withdrawing always remains your own. Always inform the instructor as soon as you are aware that you will miss a class meeting.

Late Arrivals and Early Departures:

For attendance purposes, both late arrivals and early departures are regarded as absences (see attendance policy above). However, you derive the benefits of being in class for whatever portion of it you attend, so do come in late if you must. If you know in advance that you must leave prior to the official end of class, or that you must arrive late, communicate this to the instructor as soon as possible.

Withdrawals:

It is your responsibility to fill out the necessary paperwork and take all required measures if you withdraw. If you are out of compliance with the attendance policy (above) and do not withdraw, you may receive an “F” for the course.

Electronic Devices:

In the classroom, students may use electronic devices only at the discretion of the instructor. Laptops, tablets and phones may all be brought to class. Bringing them and using them are, however, two different matters. The use of any recording device (cameras, voice recordings, video cameras, etc.) during class without the prior written consent of the instructor is prohibited. This is to protect privacy and to create a safe classroom environment where all participants can discuss potentially controversial or sensitive subjects freely.

Preparing for Class:

Students are expected to read each assignment before the class meeting that pertains to it. An ideal strategy for success is to read the assignment beforehand; come to class discussion; and then to re-read the assignment.



Classroom Behavior:

- Please be respectful always.
- Please be attentive always.
- Please be actively participative in the course objectives always.
- Take notes. This constructive use of class time will bring you one step closer to mastery of the material.
- Familiarize yourself with the Standards of Student Conduct:
<http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/boarddocs/AP%205500%20Standards%20of%20Student%20Conduct.pdf>

Extra Credit and Make-ups:

These are rarely made available. Documentation is always required, but may be judged inadequate. In cases where students would like to improve their opportunities for success in achieving the anticipated course outcomes, they are advised to use the time that they would spend on extra-compulsory projects, to demonstrate mastery of what has been included in the course's design instead. The Student Success Resources listed below may also be of assistance.

ADA Statement:

El Camino College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. A student with a disability, who would like to request an academic accommodation, is responsible for identifying herself/himself to the instructor and to the Special Resource Center. To arrange for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resource Center:

<http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/src/>

Student Rights and Grievances Procedure 5530:

<http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/boarddocs/AP%205530%20STUDENT%20%20RIGHTS%20AND%20GRIEVANCES.pdf>

Student Success Resources

Counseling and Student Success Division: <http://www.elcamino.cc.ca.us/student-services/co/>

- Division Office
- (310) 660-3442
- Counseling Front Desk
- (310) 660-3458
- Career Center
- (310) 660-3593 ext. 6137
- Transfer Center
- (310) 660-3593 ext. 3408

Library: <http://www.elcamino.edu/library/>

- (310) 660-3525

Reading Success Center: <http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/vpaa/sep/rsc/>

- (310) 660-3593 x6729

Tutoring Center: <http://www.elcamino.edu/library/lrc/tutoring/index.asp>

- (310) 660-3593 x3511

Writing Center: <http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/humanities/writingcenter/>

- (310) 660-3873

**ETHICS AND SOCIETY (PHIL 103) FALL 2017 READINGS & HOMEWORK**TEXTBOOK: *Contemporary Moral Arguments*, Second Edition, by Lewis Vaughn (OUP, 2012)

Assignments are to be read prior to the meeting date. This schedule is tentative.

DATE	TOPIC	PHILOSOPHERS & PAGES
AUG 29	Intro: How Morality Works	
AUG 31	Utilitarianism: Consequentialist Ethics	Mill: 62-66, 77-80, 81-84
SEP 5	Duty Ethics: Moral Worth & the C.I.	Kant: 68-69, 80, 85-93
SEP 7	Virtue Ethics	<u>Handout</u> : Plato
SEP 12	Virtue Ethics	Aristotle: 73-74, 94-102
SEP 14	Societal Justice: The Original Position	Rawls: 102-108
SEP 19	Feminist Ethics	Baier: 74-77, 108-116
SEP 21	Moral Relativism vs. Moral Objectivism	Pojman: 6-10, 31-44 + HANDOUT
SEP 26	Comparing Moral Theories: <u>Video</u>	<u>Handout</u> : Ohlson
SEP 28	EXAM #1	
OCT 3	Treatment of Animals	Intro: 572-576
OCT 5	Treatment of Animals: <u>Video</u>	
OCT 10	Treatment of Animals: Speciesism	Kant & Singer: 595, 577-588
OCT 12	Animal Attributes & Morality	Rachel: 616-622
OCT 17	Animals Rights	Warren & Scruton: 605-615
OCT 19	The Environment	Taylor: 628-640
OCT 24	The Environment: <u>Video</u>	Bring in an article.
OCT 26	The Environment & Overpopulation	<u>Handout</u> : Hardin
OCT 31	World Poverty	Pojman: 658-660, 690-700
NOV 2	EXAM #2	
NOV 7	Abortion	Intro: 118-125
NOV 9	Abortion	Noonan & Pojman: 155-161, 140-147
NOV 14	Death Penalty: Retribution/Justice vs. Risk of mistakenly killing the Innocent	Kant, Primoratz, Nathanson, Liebman: 348-372
NOV 16	Death Penalty: Discrim. & Deterrence	Cassell, Stevenson,: 372-381
NOV 21	War	395-404
NOV 23	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
NOV 28	Torture	Dershowitz: 456-466
NOV 30	Theory: Paternalism vs. Libertarianism	Dworkin & Hospers: 241-262
DEC 5	Drugs	Wilson & Husak: 216-240
DEC 7	Health Care	Daniels: 538- 544, 548-556
DEC 12	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS	
DEC 14	FINAL EXAM	