

GE265

Ethics in Society

[Onsite]

Course Description:

This course provides a practical framework and a personal method for ethical thinking and decision-making on issues in contemporary society. Students will analyze some of the major ethical dilemmas of the modern world.

Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s):

Prerequisites: GE217 Composition II or equivalent

Credit hours: 4

Contact hours: 40 (40 Theory Hours)

Syllabus: Ethics in Society

Major Instructional Areas

1. Critical thinking and the definition of ethics
2. Analysis of societal ethical dilemmas
3. Theoretical ethical approaches to contemporary dilemmas
4. Personal code of ethics to develop social responsibility in the 21st century

Course Objectives

1. Evaluate theories that provide a practical framework for everyday moral reasoning and critical decision making.
2. Analyze contemporary ethical issues concerning life and death.
3. Analyze issues concerning reward and punishment in contemporary society, including the duties of the state in pursuing war and punishing criminals.
4. Analyze contemporary ethical issues related to matters of social justice.
5. Analyze ethical issues related to mankind's responsibility for nature.
6. Analyze issues related to professional and social responsibility in the 21st century.
7. Apply a system of personal ethics to the critical analysis of contemporary moral issues and the evaluation of moral viewpoints.

SCANS Objectives

SCANS is an acronym for Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills. The committee, created by the National Secretary of Labor in the early 1990s, created a list of skills and competencies that the committee feels are necessary for employees to function in a high-tech job market.

1. Communicate thoughts, ideas, information, and messages in writing.
2. Research to gain knowledge and propose solutions based on research.

3. Synthesize information.
4. Demonstrate critical thinking while problem solving.
5. Use logic to draw conclusions and judges logical consistency.
6. Examine information for relevance and accuracy.
7. Demonstrate social awareness and responsibility.
8. Justify ethical decisions or courses of action.

Course Outline

Note:

- Where the start and end of an activity are not specified, the assignment must be completed and submitted in the same unit.
- All graded activities, except the Project, are listed below in the pattern of <Unit Number>.<Assignment Number>. For example, Exercises: 2.1 refers to the 1st exercise activity in Unit 2.

Unit	Activities
1– Introduction to Everyday Moral Reasoning and Analysis for Critical Decision Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content Covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Contemporary Moral Issues: Diversity and Consensus:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction, pp. xiv-xxviii • Final Project: Introduction • Exercises: 1.1
2– Contemporary Ethical Concerns about the Beginning of Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Contemporary Moral Issues: Diversity and Consensus:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Matters of Life and Death, pp. 1-2 ○ Chapter 2, “Abortion,” pp. 45-84 • Oral Assignments: 2.1 • Exercises: 2.1
3– Contemporary Ethical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Contemporary Moral Issues: Diversity and Consensus:</i>

Unit	Activities
Concerns about the End of Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 3, "Euthanasia," pp. 95-131 • Exercises: 3.1 • Quizzes: 3.1
4— Contemporary Perspectives on State Justice and the Death Penalty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Contemporary Moral Issues: Diversity and Consensus:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 4, "Punishment and the Death Penalty," pp. 137-159 • Quizzes: 4.1 • Exercises: 4.1 • Final Project: Outline due
5— Issues of Diversity and Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Contemporary Moral Issues: Diversity and Consensus:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 6, "Race and Ethnicity," pp. 207-253 • Oral Assignments: 5.1 • Exercises: 5.1
6— Theories and Issues of Gender and Sexism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Contemporary Moral Issues: Diversity and Consensus:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 7, "Gender," pp. 259-286 • Quizzes: 6.1
7— Theories and Issues of Gender and Sexism (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Contemporary Moral Issues: Diversity and Consensus:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 7, "Gender," pp. 286-295 • Oral Assignments: 7.1 • Final Project: Draft due
8— 21 st Century Social Responsibility for Global Hunger and Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Contemporary Moral Issues: Diversity and Consensus:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 9, "World Hunger and Poverty," pp. 327-369 • Exercises: 8.1 • Exercises: 8.2

Unit	Activities
9– Environmental Ethics and Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Contemporary Moral Issues: Diversity and Consensus:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 11, “Environmental Ethics,” pp. 417-462 • Oral Assignments: 9.1 • Quizzes: 9.1
10– Business Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read from <i>Conducting Business in the Global Economy:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 2, “Practicing Ethical Behavior and Social Responsibility” <p>ITT Tech Virtual Library> School of Business> Selected Textbooks> BU121 Introduction to Business (Online)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral Assignments: 10.1 • Exercises: 10.1
11– Course Review and Final Project Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Project: Due—present to the class • Course review

Instructional Methods

This course will use various strategies for learning. Scenarios relating to each of the issues will introduce the various topics. Multiple instructional strategies will be used, including interactive lectures and collaborative learning through discussion. You will be assessed through your oral assignments, exercises, quizzes, and a final project.

The final project consists of two parts: research into an ethical issue of concern, and development of a corresponding paper and presentation. In Unit 11 of the course, you will present your project to the class.

Instructional Materials and References

Student Textbook Package

Hinman, Lawrence M. *Contemporary Moral Issues: Diversity and Consensus. 3rd ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006.*

References

ITT Tech Virtual Library

Log on to the ITT Tech Virtual Library at <http://library.itt-tech.edu/> to access online books, journals, and other reference resources selected to support ITT Tech curricula.

Books

You may click “Books” or use the “Search” function on the home page to find the following books.

> Ebrary

- Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*, trans. Roger Crisp. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- Audi, Robert. *Business Ethics and Ethical Business*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Boylan, Michael. *Basic Ethics*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2009.
- Clark, Stephen R. L. *Biology & Christian Ethics*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- Cohen, Hermann. *Ethics of Maimonides*, trans. Almut S. Bruckstein. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2003.
- Day, Richard B., and Joseph Masciulli. *Globalization and Political Ethics*. Boston: Brill Academic Publishers, 2006.
- Gini, Al, and Alexei M. Marcoux. *Case Studies in Business Ethics*. Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2009.
- Harvey, Peter. *Introduction to Buddhist Ethics: Foundations, Values and Issues*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- Herring, Jonathan. *Medical Law and Ethics. 2nd ed.* Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- Hongladaram, Soraj, ed. *Information Technology Ethics: Cultural Perspectives*. Hershey, PA: IGI Global, 2006.

- McNeill, Desmond. *Global Poverty, Ethics and Human Rights: the Role of Multilateral Organisations*. London: Routledge, 2009.
- Mitchell, C. Ben. *Biotechnology and the Human Good*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2007.
- Novak, David. *Sanctity of Human Life*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2007.
- Pojman, Louis P. *Environmental Ethics: Readings in Theory and Application*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth, 2008.
- Reed, Esther D. *Ethics of Human Rights: Contested Doctrinal and Moral Issues*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2007.
- Robinson, Dave, and Chris Garratt. *Introducing Ethics*. London: Totem Books, 2005.
- Schultz, Robert, A. *Contemporary Issues in Ethics and Information Technology*. Hershey, PA: IGI Global, 2005.
- Shaw, William H. *Social and Personal Ethics*. 6th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2008.
- Sterba, James P., ed. *Ethics: the Big Questions*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.
- Whisnant, Rebecca, and Peggy DesAutels, eds. *Global Feminist Ethics*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2008.

Other References

The following resource can be found **outside** of the ITT Tech Virtual Library.

Web site

- Ethics Matters

<http://ethics.sandiego.edu/>

For ethics students and their instructors, this site has information on ethics resources as well as updates on current literature, both popular and professional, that relates to ethics.

All links to Web references outside of the ITT Tech Virtual Library are always subject to change without prior notice.

Course Evaluation and Grading

Evaluation Criteria Table

The final grades will be based on the following categories:

CATEGORY	WEIGHT
Exercises	35%
Oral Assignments	15%
Quizzes	20%
Final Project	30%
Total	100%

Note: Students are responsible for abiding by the Plagiarism Policy.

Grade Conversion Table

The final grades will be calculated from the percentages earned in the course, as follows:

A	90-100%	4.0
B+	85-89%	3.5
B	80-84%	3.0
C+	75-79%	2.5
C	70-74%	2.0
D+	65-69%	1.5
D	60-64%	1.0
F	<60%	0.0

(End of Syllabus)