



HOUSATONIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE NAME: Ethics

COURSE NUMBER: PHL *111

CREDITS: 3

An introduction to ethics, or the science of morals and rules of human conduct, this course explores the history of ethics as well as the application of ethics to contemporary issues. The course examines how ethical codes are produced by classical, modern, and contemporary thinkers. Students explore issues like the relationships between use and pleasure, self and other, public and private, or others. The course asks students to apply ethical consideration to contemporary issues, which may include examples like animal rights, criminal justice, sexual ethics, ethics and art, environmental ethics, bioethics, or others.

PREREQUISITE: ENG*102 or Permission of Instructor

General Education Competencies Satisfied:

HCC General Education Requirement Designated Competency Attribute Code(s):

None

Additional CSCU General Education Requirements for CSCU Transfer Degree Programs:

None

Embedded Competency(ies):

ED Appreciation of the Ethical Dimensions of Humankind (Outcomes 1 2 3 4)

Discipline-Specific Attribute Code(s):

HUM Humanities elective

Course objectives:

General Education Goals and Outcomes:

Embedded Appreciation of the Ethical Dimensions of Humankind: Students will identify ethical principles that guide individual and collective actions and apply those principles to the analysis of contemporary social and political problems.

1. Respond critically to ethical issues.
2. Apply appropriate concepts and terminology in identifying ethical problems, proposing and defending solutions to them.
3. Apply standards and practices of scholarship, research, and documentation to defend positions and beliefs, including reevaluating beliefs in light of unforeseen implications or new evidence.
4. Recognize the value of creative, collaborative, and innovative approaches to problem-solving, including the ability to acknowledge differing points of view.

Course Specific

- 1) Situate ethics as a discipline within the history and methods of philosophy.
- 2) Identify and investigate works of key contributors to the field of ethics drawn from a range of historical periods..
- 3) Explore ethical issues across a range of cultural production which may include texts, visual art, theater, film, public rhetoric and others.
- 4) Apply ethical understanding to particular issues or contexts.
- 5) Investigate the use of rhetoric in philosophical writing, which may include issues like figurative language, dialogue, comparison, example, description, narration, ethos, logos, pathos, the relationship between form and content, and others.
- 6) Pose and answer thoughtful questions in discussion and writing in order to interpret texts and to entertain the perspectives of others.
- 7) Identify central concepts in philosophical texts, such as virtue, happiness, reason, justice, equality, truth, knowledge, perfection, goodness, pleasure, nature, law, rule, or others.
- 8) Develop formal written arguments on ethical issues that incorporate and properly cite primary sources, and that summarize, paraphrase and accurately quote the ideas of others.

COURSE CONTENT

I. Historical Ethics: Selected texts and concepts from the history of ethics, which may include the following: Plato, Aristotle, Zeno, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Machiavelli, or others; religious writings and ethical debates.

II. Modern Ethics: selected texts and concepts from Modern and Contemporary ethics, which may include authors like Kant, Freud, Nietzsche, Mills, Wollstonecraft, Rawls, W.E.B. Dubois, Bonhoeffer, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr., Foucault, Lacan, Levinas, Derrida, Spivak, or others; responding to both primary and secondary texts.

III. Ethical Theories, including examples like the following: Consequentialism, utilitarianism, contractualism, hybrid theory, deontology, virtue ethics, feminist ethics, or others.

IV. Applied Ethics: Including application of ethical concepts, reasoning and argumentation about issues like the following: freedom of speech, animal rights, sexual ethics, environmental ethics, bioethics, media ethics, information ethics, or others.