

Introduction to Ethics in Society: PHIL 101-01

Course Information

Contact Information

Professor: Dr. Patrick Miller

Contact: pmiller@uwsp.edu

Class Time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:00 – 10:50

Office Hours: CCC 416 Wednesday 2:00 – 5:00 pm

Classroom: CCC 227

Course Description

We live in communities surrounded by other people that are affected by our actions, and vice-versa. How are we to judge these actions? How do we determine a right course of action or a just person? This course will cover these fundamental ethical questions and specific issues in our world. Topics covered include immigration, sex work, abortion, euthanasia, and the moral duties to animals.

This course satisfies the Humanities component of the university's General Education Program, which targets the following objectives:

- Reading closely, thinking critically, and writing effectively about texts that reflect on perennial questions concerning the human condition.
- Investigating and thoughtfully responding to a variety of ideas, beliefs or values held by persons in situations other than your own.

Learning Outcomes

- Compare different ethical theories, their foundations, and their application in modern society.
- Appraise ethical arguments on ethical issues.
- Collaboratively develop interpretations of texts and arguments in response to the texts.
- Use close reading and argumentative writing skills in relation to abstract and dense materials.

Required Texts

The following list is all the required texts for the class. The exact edition is heavily recommended, it will be available at the university bookstore, as differences in translation and pagination will make it harder to follow in class. Any reading assignment scheduled but not part of the following list will be available on Canvas or through the university's library.

Evaluation

Your final grade will be determined by a combination of four different classes of assignments.

- 35% Exams and Quizzes
- 10% Participation and Activities
- 25% Reading Responses
- 30% Article Analysis

There will be three exams throughout the semester, they will consist of matching and short answer questions. Participation and activities are group work and other forms of participation. Reading responses are 100-word responses that will be due before class on the day we cover that material. Lastly, there will be three article analyses throughout the semester, in which you will find or be given a contemporary article and analyze its arguments and moral reasoning. These analyses are your primary writing assignment for GEP requirements and will require a few pages worth of writing to do thoroughly. The specifics of each assignment will be given ahead of time and discussed during lecture and posted in Canvas ahead of time.

Grade Scale:

Unless stated otherwise, all work will be graded according to the following scale:

93-100 = A 90-92.9 = A- 87-89.9 = B+ 83-86.9 = B 80-82.9 = B- 77-79.9 = C+
73-76.9 = C 70-72.9 = C- 67-69.9 = D+ 60-66.9 = D below 60 = F

Resources: Online resource for MLA, Chicago, or other citations and other writing tip, [Purdue Online Writing Laboratory](https://owl.purdue.edu/online-writing-laboratory/).¹

Late Work and Excused Absences

Late work will not be accepted unless your absence is excused. If you are aware that you will miss class or be unable to turn in an assignment on time, then please email or talk to me, so we can find a fair solution.

A grade of "I" is given only in the cases of a medical or family emergency and, in conjunction with university policy, only when a small portion of the student's work is incomplete and only when the student is otherwise earning a passing grade.

¹ https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html

Attendance

Attendance is not part of your final grade. However, I will take attendance prior to every class for record keeping purposes.

Academic Integrity Policy

I adhere to a strict policy on academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, etc.). Any questions that you may have regarding academic integrity should be resolved before you turn in course materials to me. Information can be found in UWSP Chapter 14, available at: "<http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsChap14.pdf>". The minimum penalty for a violation of academic integrity is a failure (zero) for the assignment. In addition, all infractions will be reported to the university.

Syllabus Subject to Change

This syllabus is informational in nature and is not an express or implied contract. It is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, as a result of any circumstance outside the University's and your professor's control.

General Degree Requirements

This course satisfies the Humanities component of the university's general education program.

Student Support Resources

[Academic and Career Advising Center \(ACAC\)](#)

209 Collins Classroom Center (CCC)

1801 4th Ave.

Stevens Point, WI 54481

715-346-3226

acac@uwsp.edu

[Counseling Center](#)

Delzell Hall

910 Fremont Street

Stevens Point, WI 54481

715-346-3553

counsel@uwsp.edu

Mental Health Resources for Students

[Mantra Health](#)

Teletherapy & Telepsychiatry

- Diverse therapists
- After-hours availability
- Medication evaluations & prescriptions

[You@UWSP](#)

Self-help & Well-being Platform

Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services

24/7 Mental Health Support:

- Call or text: 888-531-2142
- [Start a chat session](#)
- Crisis care available

[Dean of Students Office](#)

2100 Main Street

Old Main, Room 212

Stevens Point, WI 54481-3897

Phone: 715-346-2611

DOS@uwsp.edu

*Equal Access and Disability Accommodations

If you have a condition that may impact your learning and/or participation in course activities, please contact the [Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC). The DRC will engage in an interactive process with students and identify appropriate academic accommodations and auxiliary services in accordance with the University's legal obligations. Instructors, students, and DRC staff work collaboratively to establish any necessary adjustments or supports. Accommodations are rarely applied retroactively so it is vital that students make timely requests.

Please let me know if you have questions. The DRC is located in 108 Collins Classroom Center and can be reached at 715/346-3365 and drc@uwsp.edu.

[Student Health Service](#)

Delzell Hall

910 Fremont St

Stevens Point, WI 54481

715-346-4646

[Tutoring-Learning Center \(TLC\)](#)

The Tutoring-Learning Center (TLC) helps students in all disciplines become more effective, confident learners. We believe all learners benefit from sharing work with knowledgeable, attentive tutors. The TLC offers four tutoring services:

- Academic Coaching: Build skills in studying, time management, test-taking, online learning, and more.
- Course Content: Practice problems, deepen understanding, and prepare for exams in natural resources, STEM, World Languages, and more.
- Reading/Writing: Brainstorm and refine papers, essays, lab reports, citations, résumés, scholarship applications, personal writing, and more.
- Tech Essentials: Develop computer literacy and learn to use UWSP-related applications such as Canvas, Microsoft 365, and Zoom.

To make an appointment, students can self-schedule using Navigate, contact us at tlctutor@uwsp.edu or 715-346-3568, or stop into CCC 234.

[Stevens Point Campus Tutoring-Learning Center](#)

234 Collins Classroom Center (CCC)
1801 4th Ave.
Stevens Point, WI 54481
715-346-3568
tlctutor@uwsp.edu

[Marshfield Campus Tutoring-Learning Center](#)

Library
2000 W. 5th Street
Marshfield, WI 54449
715-898-6036
roleary@uwsp.edu

[Wausau Campus Tutoring-Learning Center](#)

Library
518 S. 7th Ave
Wausau, WI 54401
715-261-6148
lorandal@uwsp.edu

Tentative Schedule

Week 1

9/6 Syllabus

9/8 Plato (*Crito*)

Week 2

- 9/11 Driver ("Subjectivism")
- 9/13 Cahn ("God and Morality")
- 9/15 Rachels ("The Challenge of Cultural Relativism")

Week 3

- 9/18 Stevenson ("The Nature of Ethical Disagreement")
- 9/20 Kant ("The Categorical Imperative")
- 9/22 Mill ("Utilitarianism")

Week 4

- 9/25 Aristotle ("The Nature of Virtue")
- 9/27 Held ("The Ethics of Care")
- 9/29 Review/Exam Opened

Week 5

- 10/2 Singer ("Famine, Affluence, and Morality")
- 10/4 Timmerman ("A Reply to Singer")
- 10/6 Miller ("Immigration: The Case for Limits")

Week 6

- 10/9 Huemer ("Is There a Right to Immigrate?")
- 10/11 *Targeting El Paso* (Frontline)
- 10/13 Introduce Article Analysis

Week 7

- 10/16 Marion Young ("Five Faces of Oppression")
- 10/18 Boxill ("The Morality of Reparation")
- 10/20 Kukathas ("Reparation and the Problem of Agency")

Week 8

- 10/23 Anderson, ("Value and the Gift of Sexuality")
- 10/25 Nussbaum ("Taking Money for Bodily Services")
- 10/27 Satz ("Markets in Women's Sexual Labor")

Week 9

- 10/30 Singer ("Equality for Animals?")
- 11/1 Steinbock ("*Speciesism* and the Idea of Equality")
- 11/3, *Food Inc.*

Week 10

- 11/6 *Food Inc.* continued
- 11/8 Korsgaard ("Getting Animals in View")
- 11/10 Review/Exam Opened

Week 11

11/13 Sober ("Philosophical Problems for Environmentalism")

11/15 Jamieson ("Ethics and Global Change")

11/17 Jarvis Thomson ("A Defense of Abortion")

Week 12

11/20 *The Abortion Divide* (Frontline)

Thanksgiving Break

Week 13

11/27 Warren ("On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion")

11/29 Marquis ("Why Abortion is Immoral")

12/1 Hursthouse ("Virtue Theory and Abortion")

Week 14

12/4 Rachels ("Active and Passive Euthanasia")

12/6 *Being Mortal* (Frontline)

12/8 Steinbock ("The Intentional Termination of Life")

Week 15

12/11 Taylor ("The Meaning of Life")

12/13 Wolf ("Moral Saints")

12/15 Review

Finals Week

12/20 Final Exam (12:30-2:30)