

Syllabus



PHIL 2306: Introduction to Ethics

Course Syllabus: Spring 2025, Second 8-Week Session

Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed.

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Office Hours

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online
by appointment	by appointment	by appointment	by appointment	by appointment	by appointment

This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.

Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.

Course Description:

(3 credits) The systematic evaluation of classical and/or contemporary ethical theories concerning the good life, human conduct in society, morals, and standards of value.

Prerequisite(s): none

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.
2. Define and appropriately use important terms such as relativism, virtue, duty, rights, utilitarianism, natural law, egoism, altruism, autonomy, and care ethics.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of major arguments and problems in ethics.
4. Present and discuss well-reasoned ethical positions in writing.
5. Apply ethical concepts and principles to address moral concerns.
6. Apply course material to various aspects of life.
7. Discuss ways of living responsibly in a world where people have diverse ethical beliefs.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

1. Quizzes: 60 pts (27%)
2. Short Writings: 60 pts (27%)
3. Final Exam: 50 pts. (23%)
4. Final Essay: 50 pts. (23%)

A: 100%-90; **B:** 89.9-80; **C:** 79.9-70; **D:** 69.9-60; **F:** 59 or below.

Required Instructional Materials:

All readings are available on Blackboard in .pdf format.

Minimum Technology Requirements:

All students must have access to a computer, internet, and Blackboard, and should be comfortable using Blackboard for all course materials.

Required Computer Literacy Skills: Basic proficiency with Blackboard

Course Structure and Overview:

Modules:	Due Date: (11:59 PM)	Points:
Module 0:		
Module 1: Intro to Ethics		
Quiz #1	March 31st	10

Short Writing #1	March 31st	10
Module 2: Aristotle (Virtue Ethics)		
Quiz #2	April 7th	10
Short Writing #2	April 7th	10
Module 3: Theo-Ethics (Augustine - City of God)		
Quiz #3	April 14th	10
Short Writing #3	April 14th	10
Module 4: Social Contract (Hobbes - Leviathan)/Freud Civilization and its Discontents		
Quiz #4	April 21st	10
Short Writing #4	April 21st	10
Module 5: Kant Deontological Ethics		
Quiz #5	April 28th	10
Short Writing 3%	April 28th	10
Module 6: Utilitarianism		

Quiz #6	May 5th	10
Short Writing #6	May 5th	10
Module 7:		
Quiz #7	May 12th	10
Short Writing #7 Feminist Ethics/Eco-Feminism	May 12th	10
Module 8:		
Final Exam	May 16th	50
Final Paper	May 16th	50

Readings:

Each module has an associated reading. These readings are assigned at the beginning of each module, and you will find the file (in .pdf format) for that reading within the module itself. (A copy of each reading can also be found in the "Course Readings" link on the course page.) You will need to read the reading in order to complete the activities within each module.

Quizzes:

After you have read the assigned reading for each module, you will take a short reading quiz. Each reading quiz will be 5-10 questions, multiple choice; its purpose is simply to check that you've done the reading. **Quizzes must be completed in one sitting, and quizzes will not be restarted for any reason—**so be sure to have a stable internet connection when you begin the quiz. Because I know that problems can and do occur, **I will drop your lowest quiz score** at the end of the semester—so a bad grade on one quiz due to technical errors will not hurt your grade.

Short Writing:

We will do short writings in class, these cannot be made up so if you miss class you may miss a short writing. We will have one per week but they will shift which days as we go (either Monday or Wednesday). I will drop one at the end of the course, so if you miss one it will not hurt your final grade.

Final Exam:

we will have one final comprehensive exam taken in class on the final meeting of the semester. If you need to miss this exam you will need to make arrangements with me prior to the test.

Final Essay:

For a full description of the assignments, see the “Final Essay Assignment” link on the course page. The essay assignment will be your opportunity to apply what you’ve learned and to critically engage with some of the assigned readings. Your essay will be submitted through Blackboard and TurnItIn. **Late essays will not be accepted.**

Communications: During the semester, I will check my NTCC email at least once per day; you should expect a response to any emails within 24 hours. NTCC email is the best way to get in touch with me; however, phone calls to my office will also be returned as soon as possible.

Course Policies:

1. Academic honesty is taken very seriously. In a philosophy class, this means that sources used in papers or journals should be cited somehow (MLA style, Chicago style, etc.), and quotations from any text clearly indicated. It also, more importantly, means not taking credit for the work of another. Plagiarism, handing in papers downloaded off of the internet, or any other case of a student handing in something he or she has not written will be grounds for immediate failure of the class, no exceptions. If you have any questions at all, please consult the university’s policy, and/or see me directly: “I didn’t know this wasn’t okay” is not an excuse.
2. **No outside sources are allowed for the essay!** The primary texts from the course, class notes, and your thoughts are the only allowable sources. Use of outside sources will result in a zero for the assignment.
3. The use of generative AI tools (like ChatGPT) at any stage in composing your essays, journal entries, or discussion board posts is strictly prohibited.

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC’s website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/> (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>)) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website, (<http://www.ntcc.edu/index.php?module=Pagesetter&func=viewpub&tid=111&pid=1>).

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing.