Course Information

PRE 111
Introduction to Ethics
Winter II - 2018 (January 15th – March 10th)
3 Credit Hours

Instructor Information

Lee Tasey
Doane University

Contact Information

Office: Cyberspace
Office Hours: Virtually all the time!
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Phone: (402) 477-0279

Communicating with the Instructor

This course uses a "three before me" policy in regards to student to faculty communications. When questions arise during the course of this class, please remember to check these three sources for an answer before asking me to reply to your individual questions:

1. Course syllabus
2. Announcements in Blackboard
3. The "Water Cooler" discussion board

This policy will help you in potentially identifying answers before I can get back to you and it also helps your instructor from answering similar questions or concerns multiple times.

If you cannot find an answer to your question, please first post your question to the "Water Cooler" discussion board. Here your question can be answered to the benefit of all students by either your fellow students who know the answer to your question or the instructor. You are encouraged to answer questions from other students in the discussion forum when you know the answer to a question in order to help provide timely assistance.

If you have questions of a personal nature such as relating a personal emergency, questioning a grade on an assignment, or something else that needs to be communicated privately, you are welcome to contact me via email or phone. My preference is that you will try to email me first. I will usually respond to email and phone messages from 8am to 5pm on weekdays, please allow 24 hours for me to respond.

If you have a question about the technology being used in the course, please contact the Doane University Help Desk for assistance (contact information is listed below).

Course Catalog Description

An examination of philosophical theories on the foundations, principles, and applications of ethics. Upon completion, students will be able to describe the theories of Egoism, Virtue Ethics, Utilitarianism, the Social Contract, and Kantian Ethics. Also, students will be able to apply the insights of these theories to contemporary moral issues.

Course Overview

The word "ethics" comes from a Greek word that means "character." Ethicists try to discover what is right and wrong in the realm of human behavior. Over the next eight weeks, we'll study the ideas of major ethical philosophers from antiquity to the present; we'll also look at moral issues facing us today. Our guides through the ethical landscape will be influential persons such as Plato, Aristotle, St. Thomas Aquinas, Thomas Hobbes and Immanuel Kant, and Carol Gilligan, just to name a few. We'll be looking at questions such as "What is right and wrong?" and "Can there be morality without God?" and "Why should I be moral?" and "What is the good life?"

Course Prerequisites

None

Course Textbook and Materials

Required

Berlinski, Claire. *Menace in Europe: Why the Continent's Crisis Is America's, Too*. Crown Forum: 2006. ISBN: 1400097681

Bukowski, Charles. *War All the Time.* Ecco: 2002. ISBN: 0876856377

Law, Stephen. *The Great Philosophers: The Lives and Ideas of History's Greatest Thinkers*. Quercus Publishing; Reprint edition (2016). ISBN: 1780877471

Prager, Dennis. *Think a Second Time*. William Morrow Paperbacks: 1996. ISBN: 006098709X

Learning Objectives
Course Objectives

At the completion of this course students will be able to:

1. **define** key terms in the study of philosophy and ethics.

2. **list** and **describe** the major ethical teachings of the great philosophers from antiquity to the present

3. **compare** and **contrast** Eastern and Western approaches to ethics and the good life

4. **analyze** and **apply** a variety of ethical theories (e.g. virtue theory, divine command theory, deontology, etc.) to the moral issues of our day

5. **develop** and **demonstrate** an awareness of the complexity of moral issues and the variety of approaches with which to think about them

Unit Objectives

Unit I: Define the word "ethics" and "ethical theory." Identify and explain the key figures and features of Buddhist and Confucian ethics.

Unit II: Identify and explain the key figures of Greek philosophy and the essential features of virtue ethics

Unit III: Identify and explain the key figures of ancient, medieval, and modern Christian philosophy as well as the essential features of both divine command theory and natural law ethics

Unit IV: Identify and explain the key figures of early modern philosophy and note the essential features of ethical egoism

Unit V: Identify and explain the key figures of modern philosophy and note the essential features of Kantian and utilitarian ethics

Unit VI: Identify and explain the key figures of late modern philosophy and note the essential features of existentialist and feminist ethics

Unit VII: Identify and explain the causes of the death of God and Western culture and its impact on contemporary Europe and America

Unit VIII: Identify and explain the causes of the death of God and Western culture and its impact on contemporary Europe and America, Part II

Course Requirements

Online Course
This is an online course and therefore there will not be any face-to-face class sessions. All assignments and course interactions will utilize internet technologies.

Computer Requirements
This course requires that you have access to a computer that can access the internet. You will need to have access to, and be able to use, the following software packages:
- A web browser (Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (free)
- Adobe Flash Player (free)
- Microsoft Word

You are responsible for having a reliable computer and internet connection throughout the course.

Email and Internet
You must have an active Doane University e-mail account and access to the Internet. *All instructor correspondence will be sent to your Doane University e-mail account.* Please plan on checking your DU email account regularly for course related messages.

This course uses Blackboard for the facilitation of communications between faculty and students, submission of assignments, and posting of grades. The Blackboard Course Site can be accessed at http://bb2.doane.edu

Campus Network or Blackboard Outage
When access to Blackboard is not available for an extended period of time (greater than one entire evening - 6pm till 11pm) you can reasonably expect that the due date for assignments will be changed to the next day (assignment still due by midnight).

Attendance/Participation
Preparation for class means reading the assigned readings & reviewing all information required for that week. *Attendance* in an online course means logging into the Blackboard and on a regular basis and *participating* in the all of activities that are posted in the course.

Studying and Preparation Time
The course requires you to spend time preparing and completing assignments. A three-credit course requires 135 hours of student work. Therefore, expect to spend approximately 16 hours a week preparing for and actively participating in this course. (8-week course)

Late or Missed Assignments
All assignments must be finished and turned in to complete the course. Unless the instructor is notified BEFORE the assignment is due and provides an opportunity for the student to submit his/her assignment late, points may be taken off for a late assignment.

Rewrites
Students may submit their assignments ahead of their due date for review by the instructor as long as the assignment is provided a minimum of three days prior to the course due date. The instructor will provide feedback on the assignment for consideration by the student.

Submitting Assignments
All assignments, unless otherwise announced by the instructor, MUST be submitted via Blackboard. Each assignment will have a designated place to submit the assignment.

Drop and Add dates
If you feel it is necessary to withdraw from the course, please contact your advisor for full details on the types of withdrawals that are available and their procedures.

Subject to change notice
All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change with prior notice. It is your responsibility to stay in touch with your instructor, review the course site regularly, or communicate with other students, to adjust as needed if assignments or due dates change.

Academic Integrity

> Doane University expects and requires all its students to act with honesty and integrity, and respect the rights of others in carrying out all academic assignments. Academic dishonesty, the act of knowingly and willingly attempting or assisting others to gain academic success by dishonest means, is manifested in various measures. Gehring, et al, (1986) suggests that four categories of academic dishonesty exist[1]:
> 1. Cheating

2. Fabrication
3. Facilitating academic dishonesty
4. Plagiarism

For more information on academic integrity, please visit the website:
http://catalog.doane.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=191

Course Grading

Grades and Grading Scale
Assignment of letter grades is based on a percentage of points earned. The letter grade will correspond with the following percentages achieved. All course requirements must be completed before a grade is assigned.

A	1000 – 900
B	899 – 800
C	799 – 700
D	699 – 600
F	599 and below

Summary of Assignments

Item	Points	Date
Item #1 Cyber Café #1	100	Week 1
Item #2 Cyber Café #2	100	Week 2
Item #3 Cyber Café #3	100	Week 3
Item #4 Cyber Café #4	100	Week 4
Item #5 Fun with Philosophy	50	Week 4
Item #6 Cyber Café #5	100	Week 5
Item #7 Cyber Café #6	100	Week 6
Item #8 Fun with Philosophy	50	Week 6
Item #9 Cyber Café #7	100	Week 7
Item #10 Cyber Cafe #8	100	Week 8
Item #11 Ethical News Flash	100	Week 9

Total: 1000

See the requirements for the <u>specific</u> Assignments on Blackboard.

Weekly Course Schedule

Week	Topics/Lessons	Activities	Assignments
Week 1 Start - End	Introduction to Ethics Introduction to Ethical Theories **Eastern Philosophy**: Buddha and Confucius Contemporary Ethical issues	Reading: *The Great Philosophers* (Buddha and Confucius) Reading: *Think a Second Time*: p. 3-6, 9-16 Reading: *War All The Time*: 1-68	Cyber Café #1 (three critical thinking topics, all of which cover the readings in *The Great Philosophers*, *Think a Second Time*, and *War All the Time*)
Week 2 Start – End	**Ancient Greek Philosophy**: Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle Contemporary Ethical Issues	Reading: *The Great Philosophers* (Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle) Reading: *Think a Second Time*: p. 36-42, 46-73 Reading: *War All the Time*: 69-111	Cyber Café #2
Week 3 Start – End	**Ancient, Medieval, and Modern Religious Philosophy**: Augustine, Aquinas, Pascal, and Kierkegaard Contemporary Ethical Issues	Reading: *The Great Philosophers* (Augustine, Aquinas, Pascal, and Kierkegaard) Reading: *Think a Second Time*: 99-103, 132-138, 156-158 Reading: *War All the Time*: 112-146	Cyber Café #3

Week	Topics/Lessons	Activities	Assignments
Week 4	**Early Modern Philosophy**: Machiavelli and Hobbes Contemporary Ethical Issues	Reading: *The Great Philosophers* (Machiavelli and Hobbes) Reading: *Think a Second Time*: 159-183, 188-213 Reading: *War All the Time*: 147-187	Cyber Café #4 Fun with Philosophy #1
Week 5	**Modern Philosophy**: Kant, Bentham, and Mill Contemporary Ethical Issues	Reading: *The Great Philosophers* (Kant, Bentham, and Mill) Reading: *Think a Second Time*: 214-234 Reading: *War All the Time*: 188-242	Cyber Café #5
Week 6	**Existentialist Philosophy and Feminist Philosophy**: Nietzsche, Sartre, de Beauvoir, and Gilligan Contemporary Ethical Issues	Reading: *The Great Philosophers* (Nietzsche, Sartre, de Beauvoir, and Gilligan) Reading: *Think a Second Time*: 235-255 *War All the Time*: 243-280	Cyber Café #6 Fun with Philosophy #2
Week 7	**Special Topics**: The Death of God and Western culture	Reading: *Menace in Europe: 1-128*	Cyber Café #7
Week 8	**Special Topics**: The Death of God and Western culture, Part II	Reading: *Menace in Europe: 129-263*	Cyber Café #8
Week 9			Ethical News Flash

How to Succeed in this Course

- Check your Doane University email regularly

- Log in to the course web site daily
- Communicate with your instructor
- Create a study schedule so that you don't fall behind on assignments

Student Conduct Statement

Students are required to adhere to the behavior standards listed in **Doane University Policy Manual**

Appropriate classroom behavior is defined by the instructor. This includes the number and length of individual messages online. Course discussion messages should remain focused on the assigned discussion topics. Students must maintain a cordial atmosphere and use tact in expressing differences of opinion. Inappropriate discussion board messages may be deleted if an instructor feels it is necessary. Students will be notified privately that their posting was inappropriate.

Student access to the course Send Email feature may be limited or removed if an instructor feels that students are sending inappropriate electronic messages to other students in the course.

Syllabus Disclaimer

The instructor views the course syllabus as an educational contract between the instructor and students. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as deemed necessary. Students will be notified in a timely manner of any syllabus changes face-to-face, via email or in the course site Announcements. Please remember to check your Doane University email and the course site Announcements often.

Academic Support Center

The Academic Support Center (ASC) located in room 204 of the Fred Brown Building offers academic support in the areas of time management, study strategies, note taking, test taking, math, reading, and writing. Free tutoring and free one-on-one meetings are available to provide assistance in these areas. Additionally, free proofreading of final drafts of papers is available 24/7. To sign up for the proofreading service or to make a tutor or one-on-one appointment, email the director at: terese.francis@doane.edu. Students are encouraged to seek support from the ASC sooner rather than later.

Technical Support Contact Information

For technical assistance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, please contact the Doane University Technology Office Help Desk:

        Phone: 402-826-8411
        Email: helpdesk@doane.edu
        Web: http://www.doane.edu

Accessibility Statement

In compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, professional disability specialists and support staff at Doane University facilitate a comprehensive range of academic support services and accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Doane University staff coordinate transition from high schools and community colleges, in-service training for faculty and staff, resolution of accessibility issues, community outreach, and collaboration between all Doane University regarding disability policies, procedures, and accommodations.