

SOPHIA Learning

PHIL1002: Introduction to Ethics (3 semester credits)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sophia's Introduction to Ethics course explores philosophical approaches to understanding morality and evaluating moral actions. In this course, you will learn about a variety of normative ethical theories, and apply these theories to real world ethical issues. With an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of major approaches to ethics, you will build the critical thinking skills necessary to justify ethical positions.

Course Effective Dates: November 2016 – Present

Prerequisite(s): Lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree course – no prerequisites

Length of course: This is a self-paced course. Students have 60 days with an additional 30-day extension (if needed) to complete the course.

ACE CREDIT® Recommendation: In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category, 3 semester hours in philosophy or humanities (10/16).

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and articulate the goals of ethics as a discipline
2. Analyze and evaluate philosophical arguments
3. Define, describe, and apply key terminology in moral theory
4. Articulate the essential features and commitments of major approaches to ethics
5. Identify and articulate the strengths and weaknesses of major approaches to ethics
6. Apply a variety of moral theories to evaluate real-life situations and actions
7. Recognize the sources and effect of bias in ethical decision making
8. Analyze ethical considerations for contemporary ethical issues

OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

- Philosophical Inquiry
- Deductive and Inductive Arguments
- Evaluating an Argument and its Structure
- Branches of Ethics
- Categorizing Ethical Theories
- Divine Command Theory
- The Euthyphro Dilemma

- Conventionalism
- Cultural Differences Argument
- Ethical Egoism
- Act and Rule Utilitarianism
- Hedonic and Idealist Utilitarianism
- Kantian Deontology
- The Formulation of Universal Law
- The Formulation of Humanity
- Virtue Ethics
- Bias in Ethical Decision Making
- Establishing a Consistent Value System
- Ethical Considerations for Capital Punishment
- Ethical Considerations for Abortion
- Ethical Considerations for Wealth Distribution
- Ethical Considerations for Animal Rights

GRADING

This is a pass/fail course. Students are required to complete all 12 formative and 4 summative assessments with an overall course average of 70% or better.