

## PHIL 2201: ETHICS (3 credits), Spring 2015

SECTION 001: LA 372, M, W F, 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

Contact  
Information

**Instructor:** Dr. Schalow  
**Office:** UNO: LA 383  
**Office Hours:** M, W, F, 11:00-12:30 (and by appointment)  
**Office Phone:** (504) 280-6815  
**Email:** fschalow@uno.edu  
**Course Webpages:** Accessed via Moodle

Required  
Texts

[1] *Morality and Moral Controversies*, ed. John Arthur. Pearson/Prentice-Hall, 2011. ISBN: 0-13—34155-X

Course Description

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** A study of concepts of right and wrong, good and evil, and their grounds.

**COURSE OVERVIEW:** The course is designed to introduce the student to the basic ethical theories—both historical and contemporary—and to the ongoing debate concerning the most controversial moral issues of our day. Such issues include abortion, euthanasia, the welfare of the environment and animals, as well as concerns for economic and social justice.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to do the following:

- to recognize philosophical questions, particularly those surrounding moral controversies
- to know the primary ethical theories throughout the history of philosophy
- to understand and articulate the various ethical controversies that have surfaced in contemporary times.
- work with philosophical concepts and methods, and to construct and evaluate arguments
- to participate in classroom discussion, developing and displaying an ability and readiness to defend one's own point of view while listening openly but carefully to others
- to demonstrate a willingness to entertain criticism, formulate and reply to reasonable objections, and represent opposing views both critically and sympathetically
- to read both primary and secondary texts and analyze the arguments contained in them correctly

Grading

Requirement		Final grade	
Analytical Paper	(16%) 16 points	<b>A</b>	<b>100-89.5</b>
First exam	(28%) 28 points	<b>B</b>	<b>89.4-79.5</b>
Second exam	(28%) 28 points	<b>C</b>	<b>79.4-69.5</b>
Third exam	(28%) 28 points	<b>D</b>	<b>69.4-59.5</b>
		<b>F</b>	<b>59.4—0</b>

Course Requirements

**ANALYTICAL PAPER:** The primary reason for attending college is to begin the process of becoming a scholar by reflecting on complicated questions related to the human experience. To this end, each student is required to write an “analytical” paper, arguing the “pro” or “con” of a specific position for one of the topics we addressed in class, e.g., “pro-life” vs. “pro-choice,” “physician-assisted suicide” (pro or con). The paper must be submitted in duplicate, 1) uploaded to Moodle and 2) a hardcopy delivered to the Professor in class. The paper is due on April 8. The paper is worth 16% of the student’s final grade. **Late Papers:** All papers received after that date will be deducted 5 points for each day late.

**TESTS:** Three tests (including the final) will be given throughout the semester. Each test counts 28% toward the student’s final grade. For students who miss an exam, see “Make-Up” policy below.

**PARTICIPATION:** Participating in class is encouraged, and can impact the student’s final grade in a positive way in the case of “borderline” grades.

Course Policies

**ACADEMIC HONESTY** Academic dishonesty undermines the academic enterprise and includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarizing, tampering with academic records or exams, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. If you’re foolish enough to do something like this, you’ll be expelled from the course with a failing grade and will be reported to the university.

**ATTENDANCE** Attendance is expected at all class meetings. Students who miss more than 7 classes throughout the semester will have the tally of their final grade deducted one letter, e.g., from “A” to “B”.

**DISABILITY POLICY** It is university policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accomodation to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contract their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. If you any questions, contact the Office of Disability Serviced at UC 260, (504 280-6222 (Voice).

**MAKE-UP EXAMS:** Make-up exams are allowed. However, the penalty for missing a test (for whatever reason) is a deduction of 8 points from that exam.  
**Make-up exams will only be given during my office hours.**

**Class Conduct:** Each student is requires to act in a civil and respectful way.

**WITHDRAWALS:** You may withdraw from this course for any reason. Look in the University calander for the last day to withdraw.

**WARNING!**

Philosophy requires critical thinking. It is not for everyone.

**Course Schedule (Subject to change)****Reading is due for the date listed. All page numbers refer to the required course text.**

Jan. 12	“Introduction”
Jan. 14	Basic Concepts of Ethics
Jan. 16	Relativism and Objectivism, Plato
Jan. 21	Aristotle’s ethics, <i>Morality and Moral Controversies</i> , pp 1-7
Jan. 23	<i>Continued</i>
Jan. 26	Kant’s ethics, <i>Morality and Moral Controversies</i> , pp. 16-25
Jan. 28	<i>Continued</i>
Jan. 30	<i>Morality and Moral Controversies</i> , pp. 27-34.
Feb. 2	Nietzsche’s Critique of Ethics
Feb. 4	<i>Review</i>
Feb. 6	Test #1
Feb. 9	The Abortion Controversy, pp. 204-211 ( <i>Morality and Moral Controversies</i> )
Feb. 11	Judith Thomson, “A Defense of Abortion,” pp 212-217.
Feb. 13	Mary Warren, “The Moral and Legal Status of Abortion,” pp. 218-225.
Feb. 18	Consultation Day
Feb. 20	The Euthanasia Controversy
Feb. 23	James Rachels, “Active vs. Passive Euthanasia.”
Feb. 25	Richard Brandt, “Defective Newborns,” pp. 265-271
Feb. 27	Sexual Ethics, Kant, pp. 285-289
Mar. 2	S. Ruddick, “Better Sex”; A Goldman, “Plain Sex,” pp. 291-299.
Mar. 4	R. Wasserstrom, “Is Adultery Immoral?”
Mar. 6	Erotic Material and the Question of Censorship
Mar. 9	The technology of the internet
Mar. 11	<i>Review</i>
Mar. 13	Test #2
Mar. 16	Consultation day and Paper Day
Mar. 20	John Rawls, pp. 461-465
Mar. 23	Robert Nozick, pp. 452-461
Mar. 31	Nozick and the Critique of Socialism
Apr. 6	Karl Marx and Economic Justice, pp. 465-473
Apr. 8	Feminism and its Different Forms, <b>Paper Due</b>
Apr. 10	B. Steinbock and the Question of Surrogate Pregnancy (Papers Due)
Apr. 13	R. Wasserstrom, “On Racism and Sexism,” pp. 576-581; The Bakke case, p. 510
Apr. 15	The Environmental Question, M. Heidegger and “Poetic Dwelling”
Apr. 17	Shallow versus Deep Ecology
Apr. 20	Peter Singer and Animal Rights, pp. 158-168
Apr. 22	Kant’s interest in animals
Apr. 24	The question of overpopulation
Apr. 27	Pandemics and the AIDS crisis
Apr. 29	Consultation Day
May 1	<i>Review</i>
May 8	Final exam (Fri., 10:00-12:00)