

St. Petersburg College  
Department of Applied Ethics  
College of Policy, Ethics and Legal Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS

PHI 1600, Section 4160  
Studies in Applied Ethics: Business and Professional Ethics  
0490– Fall 2014

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Name: Dave Monroe  
Contact Information:  
Email: [monroe.david@spcollege.edu](mailto:monroe.david@spcollege.edu)  
Office Phone: (727) 341-4313  
Office Hours: M 9:30-4, T 11-4, W 12-4, Th 11-5:15, F 8-12  
Office Location: SPG EI 127  
Instructor Web Page: [http://it.spcollege.edu/course\\_info/inquiry.cfm?number=1061](http://it.spcollege.edu/course_info/inquiry.cfm?number=1061)

**ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT:**

Applied Ethics Institute  
  
Dean: Dr. Susan Demers  
Office Location: SS 165, Clearwater Campus  
Office Number: (727) 791-2501  
Email: [demers.susan@spcollege.edu](mailto:demers.susan@spcollege.edu)  
[www.appliedethicsinstitute.org](http://www.appliedethicsinstitute.org)  
  
Academic Chair: David Monroe  
Office Location: As above  
Office Number: As above

**COURSE INFORMATION:**

The course information includes C&I Committee approved Course Description, Major Learning Outcomes and Course Objectives.

Course Description:

Prerequisite: (REA 0002 and ENC 0020) or EAP 1695 or appropriate score on the SPC placement test. This is a practical overview of key issues, questions, and concepts in applied ethics. Special emphases are placed on the historical development of ethical thinking and ethical theories, and on multicultural aspects of ethics. Students will also examine a variety of personal, social, and professional ethical issues and problems, and learn methods of resolving them through the use of critical thinking skills, sound ethical reasoning, and legal and professional codes. The seminar format provides students with an active learning experience, increased student interaction, and opportunities for independent study into ethical issues of personal interest. This course has a substantial writing requirement. This course meets the college's general education requirement for applied ethics. Credit is not given for both PHI 1600 and any of the following courses: PHI 1602, PHI 1603, PHI 1631, PHI 2621, PHI 2622, or PHI 2649.

Major Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will trace the historical development of ethical thinking, considering ideas from early Greek to contemporary philosophers.
2. The student will recognize and analyze a variety of ethical issues when confronted with examples of situations containing such issues.
3. The student will identify the multicultural aspects of ethics.
4. The student will apply critical thinking skills, ethical principles and logical reasoning processes to resolve ethical issues.

Course Objectives:

1. The student will understand the historical development of ethical thinking, considering ideas from early Greek to contemporary philosophies by: defining central ethical terms and describing major historical and contemporary theories of ethics.
2. The student will recognize and analyze a variety of ethical issues when confronted with examples of situations containing such issues by: distinguishing between moral and non-moral issues and statements, identifying a wide variety of personal, social and professional ethical issues and evaluating various points of view on a wide variety of personal, social and professional ethical issues.
3. The student will identify the multicultural aspects of ethics by: recognizing the relationship between the foundational values of a society and the quality and mode of life of that society, recognizing examples of ethical and unethical behavior within a society and describing the effort of unethical behavior on the individual and the society.
4. The student will identify and apply critical thinking skills, ethical principles and logical reasoning processes to resolve ethical issues by: describing methods of practical and ethical decision making, applying a wide variety of philosophical principles to resolve ethical dilemmas when presented with actual and hypothetical ethical issues found in personal, social and professional life, and describing and distinguishing characteristics emphases of a variety of professional codes of ethics (including the Florida Code of Ethics for Public Employees) and relating the codes to ethical issues in contemporary professional life.

Further information about the course:

Folders for each unit (which include assignments, etc.) are open at the start of the semester, and will close as the due date arrives. This will allow you to work ahead if you like, but once the folders are closed I expect your work to be submitted. **I will NOT accept late work; clearly defined due dates can be found on the ANGEL calendar.**

**This course uses Turnitin.com drop boxes for the critical thinking papers. You will not be able to submit papers unless you accept the Turnitin.com agreement form or make special accommodations with the professor.**

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK & OTHER RESOURCE INFORMATION:

Required Textbook:

This class requires the purchase or lease of *Ethics Applied* Edition 7.0 (Manias, Nicholas, Monroe, Dave, & Till, Jane. Pearson Education).

ISBN #: 978-1-269-58885-0

Previous editions of the textbook may not be used for this course.

Textbooks are also available at every St. Petersburg College library and must be read at the library. Library: <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/>.

## MEETING INFORMATION:

Course Location: SP-EI 118  
Meeting Days: T/Th  
Class Times: 9:30-10:45 a.m.

## IMPORTANT DATES:

Course Dates: 8/18-12/12  
Drop/Add: 8/22  
Withdrawal Date (60% point): 10/23  
Financial Aid: <http://www.spcollege.edu/pages/dynamic.aspx?id=800>

Other important dates will be listed on the ANGEL calendar.

## ATTENDANCE:

The college-wide attendance policy is included in the Syllabus Addendum <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/asa/addendum.htm>. The policy notes that each instructor is to exercise professional judgment and define “active participation” in class (and therefore “attendance”), and publish that definition in each syllabus. For this class, attendance is defined as showing up on time and ready to participate. If you have **three or more** unexcused absences by the 60% point of the semester (10/23), you will not have satisfied my criterion for "active participation", and I will recommend you receive a grade of WF for the course.

An unexcused absence is any for which you have not notified me in advance, or one for which you cannot furnish documentation of an emergency.

## GRADING:

PHI 1600 is a Gordon Rule class (the Gordon Rule originated with the Florida Legislature). A Gordon Rule class requires students to demonstrate college-level writing skills through multiple assignments. **In order to pass PHI 1600 and fulfill the general education requirements for Ethics, you must (a) submit at least 2,000 words of written work and (b) achieve a final grade of C or better in PHI 1600**

Your final grade in this class will be based on the points you earn on assignments, papers, and exams. There are a total of 500 points available for the semester. The final grades will be determined as follows:

A = 100% - 90%	90-100 pts.	
B = 89% - 80%	80-89 pts.	
C = 79% - 70%	70-79 pts.	STUDENTS MUST EARN 70% OR HIGHER TO PASS
D = 69% - 60%	60-69 pts.	
F = 59% and below	0-59 pts.	

This chart will allow you to keep tabs on your grade as the semester unfolds, or you can check your progress on Angel.

Assignment	Points Possible	Gordon Rule Words	My Grade
In-Class Quizzes	20 (4x5)	0	
Code of Ethics Presentation	15	0	
Final Exam	10		
Critical Thinking Papers	40 (2x20)	2000 (1000x2)	
Business Ethics Article Review	10	0	

Academic Honesty Quiz	5	0	
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**A note on due dates: I will not accept late work. You will have adequate time for each assignment and sufficiently defined due dates, so I expect you to work within those parameters. I am willing to be flexible in cases of extreme emergency, but only then. Due dates for all assignments will be posted on our ANGEL calendar, so be sure to check it frequently.**

## ASSIGNMENTS:

### 1. Pre-Survey: 1 pt. extra credit

Please complete this short survey. Every student must complete this the first week of class. You will receive a confirmation message upon completion; highlight this message, right click with your mouse, and copy the message. To finish the assignment, paste (right click, select paste) the confirmation message into the pre-survey drop box under the Lessons tab on ANGEL. Click submit. If the link embedded in Angel does not work, you can find the pre-survey at [www.appliedethicsinstitute.org](http://www.appliedethicsinstitute.org) under "student resources".

### 2. Post-Survey: 1 pt. extra credit

Please also complete the post-survey the week before Finals. The process is identical to the pre-survey.

### 3. Academic Honesty Quiz: 5 pts.

There will be a quiz over the SPC Academic Honesty Policy. You must receive 100% to get credit (it's all or nothing). You may take the quiz up to five times to get 100%. The quiz is in the Academic Honesty folder under the Lessons Tab on ANGEL and the due date is listed on the ANGEL Calendar.

### 4. Code of Ethics Evaluation Presentation: 15 pts.

Precise instructions can be found in the Chapter 18 folder under the Lessons Tab on ANGEL. We will discuss this assignment in more detail when we reach that point of the semester.

### 5. Critical Thinking Papers: 40 pts. (20 pts. x 2)

Each student will write two critical thinking papers in this course. The paper will involve applying the critical thinking model from Ch. 4 to resolve ethical dilemmas in a case study. We will discuss the instructions and rubric in class. After the first paper is scored, each student should schedule a conference to discuss ways to improve the second paper. Students opting for a conference will also be allowed to re-submit the first paper for the possibility of an improved score.

**The critical thinking papers will require submission in a Turnitin.com drop box.** If you have issues or a principled problem with the use of Turnitin.com, alternate accommodations can be made (e.g., the submission of outlines, research bibliographies, etc.)

You would be well served by visiting the Learning Resource Center on campus. They can help polishing your writing.

### 6. Quizzes, 20 pts. (4 x 5 pts. Each)

There will be four in-class multiple-choice quizzes that will cover material from class lectures, discussions, and the textbook. **You will need green Scantron forms for the quizzes.**

### 7. Business Ethics Article Review: 10 pts.

Throughout this course we will discuss a number of ethical issues related to conducting business. For this review, you will be asked to find a current news article related to ethics in business. You will write a 1-2 page paper identifying and summarizing the issue and discussing an ethically appropriate resolution. See the instructions in the assignment folder under the Lessons Tab on ANGEL for specific details.

### 8. Final Exam: 10 pts.

There will be a cumulative multiple-choice in-class final exam.

**\*\*\*If no one in this class cheats (is academically dishonest in any way), the final exam will either be online or in-class but open book & note.**

### 9. Extra Credit Review and Reflection Questions (1 pt. each assignment, total of 5 pts. for all):

You can find extra credit assignments in some of the chapter folders under the Lessons Tab on ANGEL. The collection of these extra credit assignments (however many you see fit to do) are due by the date posted on the ANGEL calendar.

\*\*\*\*Note that ANGEL is the "nerve center" for this class; most of the information you need to proceed through this course is found on our ANGEL site, including your assignment details, due dates, and many other helpful things including chapter notes (where applicable). If you are unfamiliar with ANGEL, here's how you log in:

1. Go to <https://angel.spcollege.edu>, or log in via your MySPC page (link should be on the left side of the page).
2. Log in using your student number and email password. If you do not have that information contact someone from Admissions or IT.
3. Click the link for PHI 1600; our course will appear with links to all your active classes.
4. Go to the "Start Here" folder under the Lessons Tab. It contains a brief tutorial on ANGEL's functions.

**Additional information about SPC Policies and Procedures, including accommodation for disabilities, etc., can be found in the syllabus addendum located under the Lessons tab on ANGEL.**

## **STUDENTS' EXPECTATIONS AND INSTRUCTOR'S EXPECTATIONS**

This course may involve thinking about and discussing some controversial topics. As such, the rules of this course aim to facilitate learning the course material, generate an atmosphere of respect for peers, and make a good forum for discussing arguments. I expect you to observe these rules at all times, including in any online communication (if applicable). I will also honor these rules as your instructor.

Rule #1: Turn off ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES when entering the classroom, and leave them off until class is finished. This includes laptop computers, tablets, phones, and so on. I will allow you to use recording devices (with my permission) and other devices should you have documentation of need from the Office of Students with Disabilities. **If you use your cell phone in class or it rings more than once during the semester, I will deduct half a point from your overall grade for each incident.** Alternately, if MY phone goes off, I will award one point of extra credit to the class for each incident.

Rule #2: Treat your classmates with respect. Insulting, shouting at, or otherwise disrespecting your classmates is intolerable. If you mistreat a classmate, I will ask you to leave the classroom and pursue further discipline with the Associate Provost. Many of us have divergent viewpoints on a range of issues, and as this is a class on ethics, each person should feel safe to express and defend his or her position.

Rule #3: Arrive on time. If you are late, please enter the room quietly.

Rule #4: Expectation of Academic Honesty. To put it plainly, this is an ethics course and cheating of any kind cannot be tolerated; i.e., **cheating of any kind will result in a grade of "F" for the course.** It is your responsibility to be familiar with SPC's policies, rules, and the consequences of violations. A link to the college policy can be found at the following link:

[http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/catalog/current/stu\\_affairs\\_honesty.htm](http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/catalog/current/stu_affairs_honesty.htm)

### **Online/Student Conduct:**

<http://www.spcollege.edu/ecampus/help/conduct.htm>

### **Online Student, Faculty and Staff Expectations and Performance Targets**

This spells out the parameters of what you can expect from me regarding grading times, etc.

<http://www.spcollege.edu/ecampus/help/expectations.htm>

## **STUDENT SURVEY OF INSTRUCTION:**

The student survey of instruction is administered in courses each semester. It is designed to improve the quality of instruction at St. Petersburg College. All student responses are confidential and anonymous and will be used solely for the purpose of performance improvement.

**SCHEDULE OF TOPICS:**

Refer to the ANGEL calendar and Lessons tab for information about the units covered and pacing of the course. Here is an overview of the subjects we'll cover:

Chapter 2: The Ethics Environment (Overview of Terminology and Academic Honesty)

Chapter 4: Critical Thinking (Ethical Problem-solving, Arguments, Fallacies)

Chapter 5: Consequential Ethical Theories (Egoism, Act & Rule Utilitarianism)

Chapter 6: Non-Consequential Theories, Pt. 1 (Virtue Ethics, Natural Law)

Chapter 7: Non-Consequential Theories, Pt. 2 (Natural Rights, Deontology, Contractarianism)

Chapter 3: Moral Development (Kohlberg & Gilligan)

Chapter 18: Codes of Ethics

Chapter 17: Business Ethics

Chapter 19: The Employment Relationship: Rights, Responsibilities, and Respect

Chapter 16: Professional Ethics

Chapter 20: Business and Society as Stakeholders

Chapter 22: Government Ethics

**SIGNATURE PAGE:**

**I have read, understand, and agree to abide fully by the parameters set in this syllabus and Syllabus Addendum.**

**Student Signature:**

**Date:**