

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

COURSE SYLLABUS

PHI 1600, Section 649
Blended Instruction
Studies in Applied Ethics
0490– Fall 2014

INSTRUCTOR:

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Office Hours: M 9:30-4, T 11-1:30, W 12-4, Th 11-5, F 8-12
Office Location: SPG EI 127
Instructor Web Page: 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
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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.

NOTE: This course is a blended format class, which combines traditional face-to-face instruction with online learning. It is crucial that you have access to a reliable computer and Internet connection. Blended courses involve a substantial amount of working time out of the classroom and basic computer competency. Because

your access to technology is assumed (even if you have computer problems there are plenty on campus), I will not accept technology-related excuses unless the error is mine.

Be advised that ANGEL is being phased out; as of Spring 2015, SPC will use MyCourses powered by Desire2Learn. This section is a pilot section for MyCourses, so you will be expected to work in the new learning management system. No doubt this will produce some anxiety for all of us, but we will work together to manage any issues. For larger technical problems, contact the SPC Help Desk: (727) 341-HELP.

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 MyCourses calendar.**

ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE AT 11:55 P.M. ON THE DAY POSTED IN MyCourses UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

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: EI 117
Meeting Days: Thursday
Class Times: 5:30-6:45 p.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 MyCourses 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 **more than three** 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. **This includes participation in the online portion of this course. I will count unit quizzes and/or discussion forums as “attending” each online unit.**

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. SPC has designated the CTAP as one indication that the Gordon Rule has been fulfilled. **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%	180-200 pts.	STUDENTS MUST EARN 70% OR HIGHER TO PASS
B = 89% - 80%	160-179 pts.	
C = 79% - 70%	140-159 pts.	
D = 69% - 60%	120-139 pts.	
F = 59% and below	0-119 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(s)	Possible Points	My Grade	Gordon Rule Words
Quizzes	50 (5x10)		

Discussion Forums	20 (2x10)		
Critical Thinking Papers	60 (2 x 30)		
Ethical Life Project	20		
Code of Ethics Project	20		
Academic Honesty Quiz	10		
Final Exam	20		

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 MyCourses calendar, so be sure to check it frequently.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Pre-Survey: 2 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 MyCourses. Click submit. If the link embedded in MyCourses does not work, you can find the pre-survey at www.spcollege.edu/ethics under "student resources".

2. Post-Survey: 2 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: 10 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 MyCourses and the due date is listed on the MyCourses Calendar.

4. Unit Quizzes: 50 pts., 5 pts. Each.

There will be quizzes throughout the semester consisting of multiple choice, short answer, and matching questions. The quizzes are open book, open note timed quizzes on MyCourses. Each quiz will close with the unit in which it appears; refer to the Calendar or unit folder for details.

5. Discussion Posts: 20 pts., 2 pts. Each.

For any ten units, write a 200+ word discussion on the topic listed in the forum. The forums are located in a folder under the Lesson tab on MyCourses. Follow the directions provided and be sure to apply the concepts you learn in the chapter. There are more than ten possible discussions; I will only factor your top ten grades in your final tally. Below are guidelines for the discussions and a general rubric for how I will score them:

- A. The post must be relevant to the chapter for which you're posting, and address the provided prompt (where relevant).
- B. The post should not be "emotive"; I don't want to know how you *feel* in your discussions. Rather, the post should represent your rational thoughts. Reflect on the material and tell us what you *think*.
- C. Merely recapping information from the chapter does not count as a sufficient post. **DO NOT SUMMARIZE.** I want your thoughts.
- D. Each post should be **at least** 200 words.
- F. You may respond to classmate posts. Debate is healthy and stimulates intellectual growth. However, all responses should be courteous, respectful, and insightful. Name-calling, rude or harassing posts will earn severe punishment. Note that simply responding to a classmate's post does NOT count as one of your ten posts.
- G. Discussions are graded according to length, thoughtfulness, and clarity. This is not a chat room or blog, so I expect full grammatical sentences. No Internet shorthand.
- H. Finally, you must post for ten individual chapters; that is, you cannot "double up" on posts and only post for five chapters, etc.
- I. Discussion forums are set to "Post First," meaning you cannot read classmate posts until you have submitted your own original post.

The **grading rubric** for discussion posts is as follows:

2 pts: Excellent post to which you've devoted significant reflection, expressed your ideas with depth and detail, and met the length requirements.

1.5 pts: A good post that reveals pretty good reflection, expression of thought with decent depth and met length requirements.

1 pt. A post displaying largely superficial reflection (e.g., a surface examination of the topic focusing on the obvious or banal points) and/or failing to express thought clearly or failing to meet length requirements.

.5 pt.: Lacking in detail or substance; too short.

0 pts.: Lack of any real effort.

6. Critical Thinking Papers: 60 pts. (30 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 in TE 200. They can help polishing your writing.

7. Code of Ethics Evaluation Assignment 20 pts.:

In completing this assignment you will do a short summary and evaluation of a professional code of ethics, preferably one related to your major or field. We will discuss this assignment in more detail when we cover Ch. 18, and precise expectations are posted under the Lessons tab on MyCourses.

8. "Ethical Life" Project, 20 pts.

Throughout this course we will discuss the lives of some pretty impressive people, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Gandhi, Mother Theresa, Socrates, and many others. No one is morally perfect, but all of these people strove to be ethical and to contribute to their communities. The "Ethical Life" project will ask you to reflect on ways that you might make a moral impact in the lives of those around you. Detailed instructions are in the folder for Ch. 1 and the due date is posted on the MyCourses calendar.

9. Final Exam: 20 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.**

10. Extra Credit Analysis and Review Questions (2 pts. each assignment, total of 10 pts. for all):

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

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

1. Go to <https://mycourses.spcollege.edu>.

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. There is also a tutorial for using MyCourses available to you on your MyCourses homepage. It would be wise to take the tutorial so the transition from ANGEL to Desire2Learn will be smoother.

Additional information about SPC Policies and Procedures, including

accommodation for disabilities, etc., can be found in the syllabus addendum located on MyCourses.

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

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>

You can be confident that I will grade all submitted work within a week and answer emails within a reasonable time. During the week I will respond within 24 hours, and within 48 hours on the weekend. I will post all graded items in the MyCourses grade book, which you can access via your MyCourses Reports.

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.

SIGNATURE PAGE:

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

Student Signature:

Date:



Course Content:

Specific details about the pacing of the course are found in the ANGEL Calendar. We will cover the following chapters in this class:

Ch.1: The Foundations of Ethics (An Ethical Life)

Ch. 2: The Ethics Environment (Terminology and Academic Honesty)

Ch. 4: Critical Thinking (Moral Problem-solving, Arguments, Fallacies)

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

Ch. 6: Non-Consequential Ethical Theories, pt. 1 (Virtue Ethics, Natural Law)

Ch. 7: Non-Consequential Ethical Theories, pt. 2 (Natural Rights, Deontology, Contractarianism)

Ch. 3: Moral Development

Ch. 18: Codes of Ethics

Ch. 22: Government Ethics

Ch. 17: Business Ethics

Ch. X: Social Issue #1

Ch. Y: Social Issue #2

Ch. Z: Social Issue #3