

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

COURSE SYLLABUS
PHI 1600, SECTION #166
Studies in Applied Ethics
0515/Summer 2015

INSTRUCTOR:

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Office Hours/Instructor Availability: before/after class in the assigned classroom

Instructor Web Page: <http://www.spcollege.edu/instructors/id/860>

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT:

Dean: Susan Demers, J.D.

Office Number: 727.341.4313

Academic Chair: David Monroe

Office Number: 727.341. 4335

COURSE INFORMATION:

Course Description:

This course is a practical overview of key issues, questions and concepts in applied ethics. Special emphases are placed on the historical development of ethical thinking, a variety of ethical approaches 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. Students are provided an active learning experience, increased student interaction and opportunities for independent research into ethical issues of personal interest. This course partially satisfies the writing requirements outlined in the General Education Requirements. This course meets the College's general education requirements for applied ethics. Credit is not given for both PHI 1600 and any of the following courses: PHI 1603, PHI 1602H, PHI 1631, PHI 2621, PHI 2622, PHI 2635 or PHI 2649.

Major Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will identify historical developments in ethical thinking, comparing ideas from early Greek to contemporary philosophers by: a. defining central ethical terms. b. describing major historical and contemporary theories of ethics.
2. The student will identify and analyze a variety of ethical issues when presented with examples by: a. distinguishing between moral and non-moral issues. b. classifying personal, social, and professional ethical issues. c. evaluating various perspectives regarding personal, social and professional ethical issues.
3. The student will analyze diversity in ethics by: a. identifying societal values. b. differentiating between examples of ethical and unethical behavior within societies. c. evaluating the effect of unethical behavior on the individual and the society.

4. The student will apply critical thinking skills and ethical principles to resolve ethical issues by: a. describing methods of ethical decision-making. b. employing philosophical principles to resolve ethical dilemmas when presented with actual and hypothetical ethical issues found in personal, social and professional life. c. describing the distinguishing characteristics and 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.
5. Students will evaluate codes of ethics in the professional, corporate and government context by: a. identifying and critiquing specific code(s) of ethics relating to their chosen careers. b. applying code(s) of ethics relating to their chosen careers to resolve ethical dilemmas.

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 effect 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 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.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND OTHER RESOURCE INFORMATION:

This class requires the purchase or lease of the following textbook: Manias, Nicholas, Monroe, David & Jane Till (2013) *Ethics Applied, Edition 7.5*. New York: Pearson. Traditional book ISBN-13: 978-1-323-29316-4; ISBN-10: 1-323-29316-7.

Library: <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/>

MEETING INFORMATION:

Course Location: Downtown Campus, DT-DC230

Meeting Days: Mondays/Wednesdays 11:00a.m. – 1:50 p.m.

Class Times: 11:00a.m. – 1:50 p.m.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Course Dates: May 16, 2016 – July 8, 2016

College Closed Dates: May 30, 2016 (Memorial Day) and July 4, 2016 (Independence Day)

Drop/Add: May 20, 2016 (with refund)

Last Day to Apply for Graduation: July 21, 2016

Withdrawal Date: June 16, 2016 (with grade of W)

Final Exam: Last Day of class.

Financial Aid: <http://www.spcollege.edu/pages/dynamic.aspx?id=800>

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC INFORMATION:

PHI1600 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. The College has designated the CTAP or a similar writing assignment as one indicator that the Gordon Rule has been fulfilled. In order to pass PHI 1600 and fulfill the general education requirements for ethics, you must successfully complete the course and achieve a final grade of “C” or better.

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 information in each syllabus. For this class, in this learning environment, we will all learn from each other. Active participation in this class is showing up, on time, prepared. Students are expected to be prepared for discussion of the assigned topic and to submit completed work as assigned on the due date.

“A” students are generally the students who come to class prepared and willing to participate. Generally speaking, in a college level course, an absence is the equivalent of dropping a letter grade. Participate in class each week. It makes a difference!

Life happens and this instructor understands that there may be occasions when a student is unable to participate each week. In the event a student is aware in advance that they will miss a class it will be the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor. Students are subject to being dropped from the class if they accumulate unexcused absences during the semester or do not participate by turning in assignments, participating in group activities and discussions. If this occurs, the student will receive a “WF” in accordance with the SPC attendance policy.

Grading:

This class will use a points system. Your final grade will be based on the points you earn on the assignments listed below. Students should keep track of their own grades and should discuss discrepancies as they arise. *Hint: the last week of class is not a good time to come to the instructor with concerns about grades. Be proactive and address concerns as they arise.*

Assignments:

Case Studies:	100
Chapter Quizzes:	100
Discussion Posts:	100
Ethics in the News:	50
Final Examination:	50
<u>Mid-term Examination:</u>	<u>50</u>
Total Possible Points	450

Points	Final Grade
450-404	A
405-360	B
359-314	C
313-270	D
269	F

REMEMBER, YOU MUST HAVE A “C” OR BETTER TO PASS THIS CLASS

This syllabus is subject to amendment or revision at any time by the instructor. Students will be notified in *mycourses* and in the classroom of revisions. The actual schedule of assignments, *The Roadmap*, will be found in the *mycourses* shell for the course.

Assignments:

This class requires student participation. Students are expected to read assigned chapters in advance. It’s tough to participate if the material has not been read. Participation gives students an advantage by making it possible to experience what they are reading and learning. The best way to participate is to be prepared by doing whatever work is assigned outside the classroom before the class.

1. Case Studies (writing assignments): Students will be given an ethical dilemma from real life examples or an analysis question from the text pertinent to the chapter and/or topic under consideration. It is expected that students will examine the case and respond to questions in paragraph form. Some of the case studies may be assigned as web-quests and at least one will be a group assignment. Details and a rubric will be provided at the time of the assignment.

2. Chapter Quizzes: Quizzes online will provide an opportunity for students to discover just how much they have learned. The quizzes will include questions on assigned readings in the text, classroom discussion and slide decks.

3. Discussion posts: ethics is best understood through discussion. There will be discussion in class, but also on line in *mycourses*. Various social media will be utilized in discussion format along with *mycourses*.

4. Ethic in the News: Students will find an article in a reputable news outlet (this will be explained in the assignment folder on *mycourses*) and will submit a critically assessed review of the article.

5. Final examination: the final will be given on the last day of class. This final exam will include questions on assigned readings in the text, classroom discussion and power point slides. It is cumulative in nature; meaning it will include questions about topics from across the entire semester.

6. Mid-term examination: a mid-term will be given at the mid-point of the semester. The exam will consist of short answers and will include questions on assigned readings in the text, classroom discussion and power point slides.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

All electronic devices such as cell phones, beepers, pagers, and related devices are to be turned off (unless expressly agreed to by the instructor) prior to entering the classroom, library, and laboratories to avoid disruption. Use of any device in these areas is a violation of College Policy and subject to disciplinary action.

College computers are intended for academic work. Inappropriate use of computers during class time is prohibited. Students should understand that they may be required to use the Internet for some courses. Furthermore, students may be required to have discussions of class assignments and share papers and other class materials with instructors and classmates via chat rooms and other mechanisms. Therefore, Internet users may be able to access students' work whether the access is secured or unsecured. The College cannot protect students from the type of materials on the Internet or the potential piracy of students' materials.

Each student's behavior in the classroom or Web course is expected to contribute to a positive learning/teaching environment, respecting the rights of others and their opportunity to learn. No student has the right to interfere with the teaching/learning process, including the posting of inappropriate materials on chatroom or Web page sites.

*In this class all electronic devices, including laptops, will be put away during class time unless expressly agreed to by the instructor. Sidebar conversations, texting and other behaviors that are disturbing to other students will simply not be tolerated. Please be aware that any time a student's cell phone rings out loud during class the student will be required to stand up and sign "I'm a little teapot" to the class. So, please turn off electronic devices! Students attend class to learn and when the behavior of other students interferes with that goal it is simply unacceptable. **The instructor has the authority to ask a disruptive student to leave the classroom, lab or Web course and to file disciplinary charges if disruptive behavior continues.***

INSTRUCTOR EXPECTATIONS:

This class works best for students when they come prepared to learn. This includes bringing your text and writing materials. *Reading the assigned material before class is expected.* It will greatly benefit students. Developing good study skills and critical thinking skills will assist students in discovering and understanding not only applied ethics but their world around them. Come to class prepared and the classroom experience will be of greater educational value.

Our classroom will be a safe place to discuss ethics and to learn together. There will be times when opposing viewpoints will be a part of the discussion. Students (and the instructor) will be respectful of each other and will remember that what is said in the classroom stays in the classroom.

The sharing of information is a valuable part of academia; the use of that information, however, without giving proper credit is plagiarism and will not be tolerated. Students are subject to the College's rules and regulations regarding appropriate ethical behavior. Cheating, plagiarism and any other form of academic dishonesty, simply put, will not be tolerated.

This course will utilize *mycourses*, SPC's electronic learning platform, for the submission of assignments. Please note that each assignment will have a due date and that late work is only accepted under the following conditions: 1) the student is hospitalized and provides a signed physician's note; 2) the student is incarcerated and again, provides proof or 3) the student has been abducted by an alien. (In the event the third condition occurs students are expected to bring the alien to class as their proof of abduction.) In other words, there are few, if any, excuses for the late submission of an assignment. Students are expected to make arrangements in advance to take the mid-term or final if they will not be available to take the exams when assigned.

Finally, this is an ethics class and we will remember that at all times. The sharing of information is a valuable part of academia; the use of that information without giving proper credit is plagiarism and will not be tolerated. Students are subject to the College's rules and regulations regarding appropriate ethical behavior. Cheating, simply put, will not be tolerated.

Pre and post course survey links will be available through the *mycourses* shell for the class. The pre and post course surveys are a required survey that students will take at the beginning and ending of the semester. The data is used administratively and the surveys are anonymous. The instructor does not have access to any student responses.

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. Time will be arranged in the classroom for students to complete the survey. A 100% completion rate will result in a celebration supplied by the instructor.

SIGNATURE PAGE:

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

Student signature:

Date: