

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649
479-788-7000

General Syllabus

PHIL 32083 Ethics Across the Disciplines

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or consent of instructor

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Introduces fundamental ethical principles and how philosophers have thought about morals—both about normative ethics (about what people ought to do) and about meta-ethics (about the nature of morals or ethics). Examines the theoretical basis of ethics and then focuses on applied ethical problems in selected disciplines such as psychology, health care, business, education, and law.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Analyze the concept of Ethical Relativism in relation to current problems and conflicts around the world.
2. Describe and define basic ethical theories such as Kant's Ethics of Duty, Utilitarianism, Egoism, and Virtue Ethics.
3. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of ethical decisions based on the principles of ethical theories.
4. Apply ethical reasoning to discipline specific problems.
5. Analyze and critique ethical codes from a variety of sources.
6. Develop and defend a personal code of ethics.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills**Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will analyse ethical problems utilizing basic ethical theory. Analytical skills will be applied to the examination of codes of ethics for a variety of sources.

Communication Skills

Students will write papers, lead class discussion, and present debates on a range of ethical topics. Class presentation, both formal and informal will be an important part of the discipline.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Ethics and Ethical Reasoning
- B. Ethical Relativism vs. Ethical Absolutism
- C. Fundamental Ethical Theories:
 - i Egoism
 - ii Utilitarianism
 - iii Kant's Ethics of Duty
 - iv Naturalism and Virtue Ethics
- D. Case studies (topics will be chosen from the following based on relevance to the class)
 - i Environmental Ethics
 - ii Euthanasia and Ethical Treatment of Patients
 - iii Punishment and the Law
 - iv Economic Justice
 - v Technology and the Professions
 - vi Confidentiality and Privacy
 - vii Conflicts of Interest and Whistle-Blowing
 - viii International Marketplace and Codes of Conduct
 - ix Sexual Harassment and Affirmative Action