INSTRUCTION TO ETHICS
PHIL 102 - 02N and PHIL 102-36N
Ivy Tech Community College Region 14-Bloomington
Course Syllabus  Spring 2013

Instructor: Natasha Jacobs
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COURSE TITLE:  Introduction to Ethics/Introduction to Ethics
COURSE NUMBER:  PHIL 102-02N  CRN 31694
PREREQUISITES:  Demonstrated competency through appropriate assessment or earning a
grade of “C” or better in ENGL 025 or ENGL 093 and  ENGL 032 or ENGL 083
COREQUISITES:  None
SCHOOL:  Liberal Arts and Sciences
PROGRAM:  Humanities
CREDIT HOURS:  3
CONTACT HOURS:  Lecture: 3
DATE OF LAST REVISION:  January 10, 2013
EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS REVISION:  January 14, 2013

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:  PHL 102 Introduces the student to the ethical domain as a field of philosophy by
examining major concepts such as happiness, virtues, and rules and applies them to practical moral problems
within an individual, communal and international framework.

MAJOR COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:  Upon successful completion of this course the student will
be expected to:

1.  Identify and discuss major ethical theories. Consequentialist theories (egoism and utilitarianism)
    and Nonconsequentialist theories (divine command theory, Kantian duty ethics, virtue ethics, and
    non-Western value systems)
2.  Examine contemporary and perennial moral problems in light of these ethical theories
3.  Develop understanding of basic ethical and meta-ethical terms.
4.  Distinguish between beliefs, morals, values, religion, customs, and laws.
5.  Read, write, and think critically about ethical issues.
6.  Develop an understanding of a variety of ethical views within a pluralistic, international framework.
7.  Make choices and decisions informed by multiple frames of reference that include diverse cultural contexts
8.  Think ethically about global issues, inequalities, and one’s efficacy in the world

COURSE CONTENT:  Course content will include major ethical theories and practical moral problems:

    divine command  Kant’s duty ethics  virtue theory  utilitarianism  subjectivism  egoism
    absolutism  cultural relativism  human rights  distributive and retributive justice  death
    penalty  abortion  human sexuality and reproduction  euthanasia  bioethics  business and media ethics
    environmental ethics  globalization  economic justice  pluralistic perspectives

examines major theories of ethics, metaethical issues, practical moral problems and issues such as euthanasia,
civil disobedience, abortion, conservation, pacifism, premarital sex, and human rights with a consideration of
contemporary issues such as cloning, civil disobedience, social morality, abortion, pornography, war, distributive
and retributive justice, euthanasia, capital punishment, and issues of global concern from different perspectives

COURSE TEXTS/INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:


Additional readings and video material posted on Blackboard in each Session assignment.

Ivy Tech Community College Library (Online)

REQUIRED CONSUMABLE MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT:

Paper, pens and/or pencils; access to computer and Blackboard 9; computer access for all students is available on campus.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces students to the study of ethics and its application to problems in everyday life, society, the workplace, and broader world. The course examines the principal moral theories and ethical systems that have shaped our personal values and behavior. Students will identify and evaluate consequentialist (egoism, utilitarianism) and nonconsequentialist (divine command, Kant's duty ethics, virtue ethics) ethical systems. Students will also examine the underlying metaethical viewpoints of absolutism, relativism, determinism, indeterminism, cultural determinism, and cultural relativism. Knowledge of these systems and the development of a philosophical perspective will enable students to engage in positive discussion and reflection of globally important issues such as economic justice, war, and reproductive rights.

This course is designed to meet the requirements and objectives of the Internationalization Collaborative Across Bloomington and Indiana University (ICAB). Issues of personal, national, and international moral concern will be examined in both a philosophical and contextual manner. Assessment and reflection of specific issues, such as abortion and euthanasia, require consideration of empirical and social data from diverse cultures.

This course has both a lecture (instructor) and an interactive component (class). Students are required to be present for discussion and presentation of assigned questions and cases. Students will be prepared to present effective ethical decision making arguments in written and oral forms.

COURSE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Due Dates & Deadlines: The Syllabus and Course Calendar are two important tools that help students understand the course, student and instructor expectations, and deadlines. Both documents can be found in the “Syllabus” section of the course in Blackboard.

Students are required to submit work on time in order to receive credit. Deadlines for each week/assignment are given on the course calendar. Students should check the calendar frequently for deadlines and to be aware of what to expect next. Deadlines are subject to change. Students are required to regularly participate at times when lecture, discussion, exams, and quizzes, are scheduled.

Students are bound by all policies of the College and should familiarize themselves with these through reading the catalog and student handbook.

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Therefore, free discussion, inquiry, and expression are encouraged.

Any grievances concerning grades, assignments, examination questions, or other graded projects must be handled in a professional and non-threatening manner.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This course is designed to meet the requirements and objectives of the Internationalization Collaborative Across Bloomington and Indiana University (ICAB). Students must complete the online Global Perspectives (GPI) Inventory the first week of classes and at the end of the semester.
Attendance and participation are mandatory. See Attendance Policy below. This is an interactive course with in-class discussion and participation requirements. Students must be on time, be prepared to present assignments, and to participate in discussion. All reading assignments, presentations, and homework must be completed on a weekly basis.

**Homework: 70 points:** Homework will be assigned on a weekly basis. Homework will consists of multiple choice and/or true or false questions. There will also be 4 short in-class response exercises to images or questions. Unless specified otherwise, all assignments are due in class on the following class period. Students are permitted 2 late homeworks; no more will be accepted.

**Ethical Problem-Response Paper 30 points:** Each student will write a brief 2-3 page paper on an ethical problem of social concern. Each page should contain a minimum of 350 words; word count will apply. The paper topic and guidelines will be determined by the instructor.

**Blog Entry 40:** Students will submit 4 written responses to the posted issues/problems/questions presented in a video or article. Students must also submit 1 response to another students’ blog entries of their choice. Each Blog entry should attempt to relate the issue/problem to the material in the book (theories of justice, etc.). Each Blog entry should be a minimum of 350 words (page) and must meet college level writing standards. Blog responses can be a few sentences or short paragraph. Both Blog entries and responses must be submitted by the designated deadlines in the course calendar.

**Quizzes 60 points:** Two quizzes, worth 30 points each, will be given in order to ensure consistent student effort and performance throughout the semester. Quizzes will cover material (questions) assigned in the textbook, readings and written work.

**Examinations 200 points:** Two exams will be given during the semester. Each exam will be worth a maximum of 100 points and will consist of 3 parts: (1) identification and application of principal terms, moral theories, ethical systems, metaethical positions; (2) questions on written assignments or short essay response; and (3) chapter reading questions.

**Ethical Analysis Paper 100 points:** The case to be analyzed is assigned by the instructor.

Papers must be a minimum of 5 pages and maximum of 9 pages. Each page should contain a minimum of 350 words; word count will apply. Papers must include reference material, proper citation, and a sources page. The paper may be written using either MLA or APA formatting. Students must submit papers electronically to SafeAssign before handing in the final version to the instructor. Student access to SafeAssign is available through Blackboard and the instructor.

Late papers will not be accepted. All papers must be submitted to the instructor in hard copy (paper form) either in class or placed in the instructor’s mailbox on the due date. The student is entirely responsible for meeting the paper deadline.

**Online Course Material Access:**

Students will have access to the course syllabus, class sessions, communication tools, and other course material online via the Bloomington Ivy Tech Blackboard site. Students who miss a class or have mislaid the course schedule should access the course description, materials, and announcements online. Students who fail to attend class are responsible for utilizing the online course materials and meeting all requirements in a timely fashion. The instructor will not respond to email inquiries.

Students will be required to utilize both SafeAssign electronic paper submission and the Blog tool. A discussion board is also available to students in the class; it aims to encourage student participation, discussion, and collaboration outside of the classroom and off campus.
MAKE-UP POLICY

Homework assignments must be turned in to the instructor during class hours on the due date. With few legitimate exceptions such as a student’s hospitalization, there will be no late, make-up or email option for the homework assignments.

Absence on Quiz and Exam days is not acceptable. Students who miss a quiz or exam due to serious illness or other legitimate causes must arrange for a make-up quiz or exam as soon as possible. All missed quizzes and exams will be immediately placed in the testing center by the instructor. Students will have three days in which to take the make-up. Excepting extreme circumstances such as a confirmed hospitalization, a full letter grade deduction per day late will be applied to all make-up exams and quizzes.

Students will need to bring an ID card to the testing center. After three days, students will no longer be able to take the make-up and will receive 0 credit. Students who miss a quiz or exam for unacceptable or unsubstantiated reasons will not receive credit for a make-up they have taken.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance and participation are mandatory. Students must be on time and prepared to participate in class discussion. All computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices must be turned off during the class unless a student has permission from the instructor. Students who violate the instructor’s policy will be dismissed from class and counted as absent.

Students are permitted a total of four absences during the course of the semester without penalty. Each additional absence will result in a 10 point deduction from the final weighted total points per instructional period regardless of the reasons. In the event of an absence, students are responsible for keeping abreast of all reading assignments, homework, and class lecture/discussion topics (see syllabus and/or Blackboard for the class schedule). Students should not telephone or email instructors concerning missed assignments or missed class discussions.

Students with 8 or more absences during the semester will not have met the participation requirement for the course and will receive an F unless: (1) there are “extenuating circumstances” such as military obligations or medically serious incapacitating illness, and (2) all other requirements have been met by the student.

METHOD(S) OF EVALUATION

Grading for the course will be divided into four weighted components for a total of 500 points:

- 70 points total for homework (includes chapter questions and short response questions)
- 30 points total for ethical problem-response paper
- 40 points total for blogs (4 x 8 points each; 4 x 2 responses)
- 60 points total for quizzes (2 x 30 points each)
- 200 points total for exams (100 points each)
- 100 points total for ethical analysis paper

GRADING SCALE

A = 100-90%  B = 89-80%  C = 79-70%  D = 69-60%  F = 59-0% of 500 point total

Grade distribution point values (and equivalent letter grades) will be determined as fairly as possible, with an eye to over-all class/student performance in the course of the semester. Individual student performance will be assessed relative to other students point totals in the PHL 102 class. Grades will be determined on a curve based on highest and lowest point values. Students should bear in mind that there is a strong relationship between attendance, participation, and test/paper performance.

GRADES

All grades will be maintained in Blackboard’s online grade book. Students are responsible for tracking their progress by referring to the online grade book.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR STATEMENT:

Students should always conduct themselves in a respectful manner.
No conduct will be tolerated that might endanger or threaten anyone in the class. Disruptive behavior, substance abuse, downgrading or disparaging remarks, and any other behavior that shows a lack of respect for the instructor or other students, will not be tolerated. At the instructor’s discretion, a student causing problems may be asked to leave the class for the session. If a student persists in causing problems, further disciplinary action may be taken, up to and including dismissal from class and/or the College.

ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT: The College is committed to academic integrity in all its practices. The faculty value intellectual integrity and a high standard of academic conduct. Activities that violate academic integrity undermine the quality and diminish the value of educational achievement.

Cheating on papers, tests or other academic works is a violation of College rules. No student shall engage in behavior that, in the judgment of the instructor of the class, may be construed as cheating. This may include, but is not limited to, plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty such as the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials and/or distribution of these materials and other academic work. This includes students who aid and abet as well as those who attempt such behavior. The instructor reserves the right to use the resources of the College to check student work for plagiarism using the software, SafeAssign.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT:

Students shall adhere to the laws governing the use of copyrighted materials. They must ensure that their activities comply with fair use and in no way infringe on the copyright or other proprietary rights of others and that the materials used and developed at Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana contain nothing unlawful, unethical, or libelous, and do not constitute any violation of any right of privacy.

ADA STATEMENT:

Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with documented disabilities. If you need an accommodation because of a documented disability, please contact the Office of Disability Support Services. Disability Services Office Sue Gauck 330-6046 C108 email: sgauck@ivytech.edu

If you will require assistance during an emergency evacuation, notify your instructor immediately. Look for evacuation procedures posted in your classroom.

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW April 13, 2013

Department Chair Contact:
Name: Jennifer Daily-Mantha
Phone Number: 812-330-6301
Email (Ivy Tech Email): jdailymantha@ivytech.edu
Office/Campus Location: Bloomington main campus, room C231
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 am 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Distance Education Contact:
Name: Instructional and Online Technology
Phone Number: 812-330-6230
Email (Ivy Tech Email): bl-inst-tech@lists.ivytech.edu
Office/Campus Location: L109 Liberty Drive
Office Hours: 8am-5pm, Monday thru Friday

NOTE: If necessary, the instructor reserves the right to amend the Syllabus and Class Schedule. In the event, students will be notified in advance.