

ETHICS
Spring 2002

Course /Day/Time/Place: PH 105 / W/ 2-4:50/ H102
Instructor: Dr. Lilia Castle
Office Hours: TTR 3:30-5:30 (or by appointment)
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Course Description:

We live in a highly technological world, in a time when moral ignorance can bring us to the edge of a total catastrophe. The ability to recognize and solve moral problems became not a choice but a demand of our days.

This course of Ethics is the beginning of your lifelong journey between right and wrong, from blindness to enlightenment. It is designed to acquaint you with the major ethical views, to have you study, confront and create your own responses. You will learn about the philosophical sense of our free will. The course, also, addresses such controversial issues as abortion, euthanasia, and sexual discrimination.

Study objectives:

Student should be able to

1. Define the place of Ethics in the Humanities
2. Know key terms of Ethics
3. Be able to discuss the major Ethical theories
4. Understand and be able to apply the basic principles, rules or guidelines to moral issues
5. Identify controversial issues (abortion, euthanasia, sexual discrimination) and develop your own attitude toward them
6. Show how basic principles are used to deal with the specific moral problems of suicide, terrorism, capital punishment and know the arguments for and against these issues)
7. Understand why moral issues are significant
8. Analyze and critically evaluate specific cases involving moral issues
9. Develop his (her) attitude toward such issues as premarital sex, adultery, prostitution, etc.
10. To discuss the issues of medical, business and environmental Ethics.

Exams and Essays:

1. There will be a mid-term and final essay exams
2. Students will also write short analytical essays on various topics, make presentations and take part in discussions.
3. The creative project is an individual or group performance on anything artistic, literary, theatrical, which is not illegal, contains a moral message and takes less than 10 minutes per person.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes, to be prepared, and participate if they wish to receive full credit for the course.

Course Grading:

All students will take a mid-term and final essay exams on the dates scheduled. The exams will be given specific letter and number grades, and will count for a percentage of the total grade, as follows:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
Below 60	F

Mid-term exam – 20%

Final exam-20%

Student's creative project-10%

Class discussions- 20%

Essays and cases-30%

Course Texts: *Thinking About Ethics* by Richard Purtill, Prentice-Hall, New Jersey, 1976

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 Introduction to the course.

“Know thyself”

Old and New Testament in “Romeo and Juliet”

Week 2 Ethical relativism

Freedom of choice: Group discussion

Week 3 Egoism: Are we different from the other species?

“Higher call” (Prince Trubetskoy)

Essay #1 (5%)

Week 4 Ethical Rules: Love or Legalism?

Exercise: defend the opposite points of view

Week 5,6 Situation Ethics

Ethics in our lives: friendship, love, our neighbors...

Essay #2(5%)

Week 7,8 The sanctity of life: At what price?

Video. Discussion.

Case #3 (10%)

Week 9,10 Sex in Ancient and Modern world.

Video. Presentations

Case #4 (5%)

Week11 Midterm exam

Week 12,13 Ethics in literature. Analyze yourself.

Analyze one of the literary characters.

What message has been sent to us?

Case #5 (10%)

Week 14,15 Sexual and Racial Discrimination

Video. Reading. Discussion

Week 16, 17 Student’s presentations

Week 18 Final exam