

St. Edward's University
New College
Syllabus

PHIL 3327A
Moral Reasoning
Spring 1 2020

Fleck 108/ 6:30 – 9:35 Weds

Michael J. Hollis, PhD
Adjunct Professor
Office Hours: See below

Email: mhollis@stedwards.edu
www.drmikehollis.com

1. Overview

Office Hours: I am available in Premont 317 by appointment.

Course Description: People become morally educated, as against trained, insofar as they achieve a grasp of the principles of ethical analysis and the motivation to choose, organize, and assess their own values and actions by means of those principles. Ethics is more than being religious, following a code of conduct, or having proper etiquette. It implies deciding for ourselves by means of a moral decision making process, based upon human reason and defensible moral principles, what to do and to believe. To be ethical implies that one has acted through self-motivation, with open-mindedness, and always with an eye to normative moral principles. This course will focus on normative theories and moral decision making. By means of online lectures, class discussions, and group working sessions, we will explore the questions, "what does it mean to be ethical and how do we make good ethical decisions?"

Course Objectives: Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- a. accurately and impartially apply normative ethical principles to specific moral situations.

- b. analyzing ethically oriented material and case studies with the goal being to produce a clear, objective, and impartial essay that demonstrates insight into thoughts and feelings.
- c. synthesizing subject-matter insights and knowledge into a clear, unbiased, and well-defended moral judgment
- d. demonstrating through oral and written exercises independent thinking and intellectual responsibility by justifying one’s moral judgments.
- e. demonstrate the understanding of and be able to apply moral and ethical concepts in moral philosophy.

Textbooks: There are no required textbooks for this class. Readings and other materials will be uploaded to Canvas.

2. Assignments and Grading

Presentations (x2)	15 points each = Total 30%
Essays (x3)	20 points each = Total 60%
Class Participation	10 points

GRADE	Points	Course Average
A+	4.0	98 to 100
A	4.0	93 to 97
A-	3.67	90 to 92
B+	3.33	87 to 89
B	3.0	83 to 86
B-	2.67	80 to 82
C+	2.33	77 to 79
C	2.0	70 – 76
D	1.0	60 to 69

F

0.0

Less than 60

Calendar

Week 1 – Introduction to Morality and Ethics

Week 2 – Moral Theories, Moral Decision Making, & Evaluating Moral Arguments

Week 3 – Consequentialist Theories

Week 4 – Non-Consequentialist Theories

Week 5 – Virtue Ethics & Relativism

Week 6 – Normative Ethical Analysis and Capstone Prep

Week 7 - Presentations

Research & Writing Assistance:

Students are encouraged to take full advantage of all research and writing services provided free at the library for this and future courses. Research librarians and writing assistance folks are available for in person and online appointments at:

<http://library.stedwards.edu>

<https://www.stedwards.edu/writing-center>

Technical Guidelines for All Papers:

* Use MLA style throughout.

* Use 12-point Times New Roman font.

* Double space

* Insert page numbers

* 1" margins all around

* Heading: (top left corner of all pages):

(Name)

Dr. Mike Hollis

CAPS 4360A.01

(Date)

* Double space again and center the title. Do not underline, italicize, place your title in quotation marks, or put the title in all capital letters (In other words, don't use any of the style found in this syllabus).

* Double space between the title and the first line of the text.

Upload all assignments into Canvas.

(Google: MLA OWL Purdue for a really good online style guide for MLA with examples)

3. SEU/ New College Required Disclaimers

Title IX: There is a new university policy and state law that makes it a criminal offense for university faculty to not report incidents of sexual harassment, sexual violence, stalking and many other similar types of incidents regarding university students, staff or faculty. These include any that faculty become aware of through personal communication and in class work and discussions. This is an important new law. As a mandatory reporter however, I do have to warn that while I take student privacy very seriously, I will not neglect my duties to report offenses brought to my attention under this policy.

Academic Integrity Policy: Per the Student Handbook, "St. Edward's University expects academic honesty from all members of the community, and it is our policy that academic integrity be fostered to the highest degree possible. Consequently, all work submitted for grading in a course must be created as a result of your own thought and effort. Representing work as your own when it is not a result of such thought and effort is a violation of our code of academic integrity. Whenever it is established that academic dishonesty has occurred, the course instructor shall impose a penalty on the offending individual(s). The maximum penalty for a first offense is failure in the course, and if that penalty is imposed, the student does not have the option of withdrawing from the course."

<http://think.stedwards.edu/deanofstudents/studenthandbook/academicintegrity>

- **Unintentional plagiarism:** Often, when students commit plagiarism, it is unintentional. But any form of plagiarism is a serious misstep; all acts of plagiarism, intentional or unintentional, will be penalized. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes plagiarism and avoiding it. Students may wish to refer to a college writing guide, such as The Little Seagull Handbook, to familiarize themselves with what counts as plagiarism.
- **Self-plagiarism:** Submitting work a student submitted for credit in another course or previously published is considered self-plagiarism. Work a student submitted for credit in another course or previously published may not be submitted, in whole or in part, for credit in this course.

- **Feedback on work containing plagiarized content:** The instructor will not provide feedback on plagiarized content. The instructor will not provide feedback on a submission containing 30% or more plagiarized content.
- **Revision of work containing plagiarized content:** No extra revisions, beyond the paper revisions, if any, listed in the syllabus which all students are expected to write, will be granted for students to correct plagiarism in a submission.
- **Plagiarism at different stages of the writing process:** When there is plagiarism in a paper proposal, outline, draft, or revision the instructor does not detect, that plagiarism is still the student's responsibility and may be penalized retroactively if the plagiarism is detected in a later revision or version of the project. To reiterate: Any form of plagiarism is a serious misstep; all acts of plagiarism, intentional or unintentional, will be penalized; students are responsible for knowing what constitutes plagiarism and avoiding it.

Dropping/ Withdraw Policy: It is the student's responsibility to be aware of add/drop/withdraw and refund deadlines. See web link:
<http://think.stedwards.edu/registrar/datesanddeadlines>

* Students should also communicate with their instructor, academic advisor, and financial aid advisor.

Incomplete Grades Policy: The grade of I (Incomplete) is given at the sole discretion of the instructor and with the approval of the dean. A grade of I must always be requested by the student; it is not automatically earned. To qualify for an Incomplete, students must have completed no less than one-half of the work in a course and, in a face-to-face course, have attended no fewer than one-half of the scheduled class meetings. The student must be able to document that the situation qualifies as exceptional. Exceptional circumstances include but are not restricted to a death in the immediate family; the onset of a serious medical condition; or an unexpected change in job or family circumstances. Exceptional circumstances do not include situations that can be considered a normal part of living. Course work must be completed and a grade submitted by the instructor to the Office of the Registrar no later than October 1 for summer courses, March 1 for fall courses and July 1 for spring courses, or a grade of F will be entered on the transcript.

Disability Services/Special Circumstances: St. Edward's University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodation for qualified students with a disability. If you have an established disability as defined in the Americans with Disability Act and would like to request accommodation, please let the instructor know early in the semester or as soon as you are eligible. Students will need

to present documentation of their disability to the disability coordinator in Academic Planning and Support Services located in Moody Hall. Documentation guide:
<http://think.stedwards.edu/apss/requirementsproperdocumentation>

Student Support Services: Links to all student services may be found on the New College advising page:
<http://think.stedwards.edu/newcollege/helpful-links>