



PHIL 2306-003IN
Introduction to Ethics

Spring 2023
Asynchronous Online Course

Instructor Information: Brian Harding, bharding@com.edu

Student hours and location: I am off campus and can only be reached via email. Zoom appointments can be made as needed.

Required Textbook/Materials: All books will be available for free on the course website.

Course Description:

The systematic evaluation of classical and/or contemporary ethical theories concerning the good life, human conduct in society, morals, and standards of value.

Course requirements:

Three exams, four discussions five quizzes

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula: Grades are assigned based on the total of number of points a student earns in the class. Different assignments are worth different amounts of points.

Test one:	100
Test two:	100
Test Three:	100
Discussion one:	20
Discussion two:	20
Discussion three:	20
Discussion four:	20
Quiz one	25
Quiz two	25
Quiz three	25
Quiz four	25
Quiz five	25

TOTAL **505**

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A: 505-454

B: 453-404

C: 403-353

D: 353-303

F: 302-0

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy: Extra credit is only available via the syllabus quiz.

Attendance Policy: This is an online class; you should log in regularly and participate.

Communicating with your instructor: ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. (Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via D2L or other LMS)

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Exam I-3
2. Define and appropriately use important terms such as relativism, virtue, duty, rights, utilitarianism, natural law, egoism, altruism, autonomy, and care ethics.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Discussions
3. Demonstrate knowledge of major arguments and problems in ethics.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Quizzes
4. Present and discuss well-reasoned ethical positions in writing.	Communication Skills (CS3)	Discussions
5. Apply ethical concepts and principles to address moral concerns.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Quizzes
6. Apply course material to various aspects of life	Personal Responsibility (PR)	Discussions
7. Discuss ways of living	Social Responsibility (SR)	Discussions

responsibility in a world where people have diverse ethical beliefs.		

Academic Dishonesty: Any incident of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams or any other assignment– is an extremely serious offense and will result in a grade of zero on that assignment and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action. Any additional occurrence after the first instance of academic dishonesty will result in failure of the course.

Plagiarism

Writing your own exams and doing your own work is mandatory; submitting anyone else’s writing or other work as your own constitutes fraud and is illegal. If you turn in a piece of writing which has been plagiarized from another writer (and this includes fellow students), you will receive a 0 (zero) for that assignment.

Possible referral to the Judicial Coordinator and other consequences are possible. College of the Mainland’s definition of Academic Dishonesty and associated policies are available in the 2022-2023 Catalog or 2022-2023 Student Handbook in print form and online

HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT POLICY STATEMENT: PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty. To plagiarize is to steal the words or ideas of another and pass them off as one's own. Two forms of plagiarism are common. In the first form, the writer incorporates published or otherwise recorded material without properly acknowledging its sources. In the second form, the writer submits work actually done by someone else. (The student who allows his or her work to be used by others is also guilty.)

Any student who plagiarizes will receive a grade of "0" on his or her plagiarized work and may, as a result, receive a failing grade in the course. Ignorance will not be an acceptable defense: all students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the rules of documentation.

Violation of the Plagiarism Policy may result in a referral to the College of the Mainland Judicial Coordinator or further disciplinary actions as stated in the current Student Handbook <<http://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.php>>.

Note: All work submitted in College of the Mainland ENGL, HUMN or PHIL classes must conform to the documentation system established by the Modern Language Association (MLA). MLA documentation guidelines are distributed by your instructor, found in your textbook or on reserve in the library <<http://library.com.edu/>>. Documentation in SPCH classes is up to the individual instructor. It may be either MLA or APA style; check with your instructor and follow the appropriate system guidelines.

To document using the MLA system, you must provide an in-text parenthetical citation and a corresponding entry on a Works Cited page. "Source" may refer to published works (including material available from electronic/computer networks or databases), electronically broadcast programs, films, recordings, interviews, speeches, or lectures.

1. You must document when you quote directly from another source.
2. You must document when you paraphrase words from another source.

3. You must document when you summarize ideas from another source.
4. You must document when you use facts (statistics in a chart or graph, for example) or visual material from another source.

Rev 8/23

Link(s) to resource(s) about ways to avoid plagiarism:

<http://en.writecheck.com/ways-to-avoid-plagiarism/>

Student Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Dr. Brian Anderson at 409-933-8186 or banderson@com.edu

Course outline:

Schedule of Reading and Assignments

WEEK 1: Familiarize yourself with 'Housekeeping' and take syllabus quiz.

WEEK 2-4: We will go over books 1-4 of Plato's *Republic*; Quiz one.

WEEK 5-6: We will go over books 5-8 of Plato's *Republic*, Discussion boards 1 and 1.5 will be due, as will the second quiz.

WEEK 7-8: We will go over book 9 and 10 of Plato's *Republic* and take the test.

WEEK 9-10: We will go over Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, books 1-4; discussion board 2 and quiz 3

Week 11: Spring break!

WEEK 12-13: We will go over Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, books 5-7

WEEK 14-15: We will go over Aristotle's *Ethics*, books 8-10 (you can probably skip 9 tbh), quiz 4, and take the test.

WEEK 16: We will go over Machiavelli's *Prince*; discussion board 3 and quiz 5; Machiavelli test.

Institutional Policies and Guidelines

Grade Appeal Process: Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook [Student Handbook 2022-2023 v4.pdf \(com.edu\)](#). *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

Academic Success & Support Services: College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Kimberly Lachney at 409-933-8919 or klachney@com.edu. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

Textbook Purchasing Statement: A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Withdrawal Policy: Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1st 8-week session is March 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is **April 24**. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is May 3.

FN Grading: The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

Early Alert Program: The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been

asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

Resources to Help with Stress:

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at deanofstudents@com.edu or communityresources@com.edu.