



PHIL 2306-202H1
Introduction to Ethics
Fall 2025 1st Session
Wednesday 6:00-8:50 PM

Instructor Information: Alan Milam, amilam1@com.edu

Office hours and location: Class LRC 257

Office Hours: Friday 3:30-4:30 PM via email and teams/zoom by appointment.

Required Textbook/Materials: Russ Shafer-Landau, *Living Ethics: An Introduction with Readings* Second Edition. All other readings will be provided via Brightspace d2l

Course Description: War is often the result of a failure in language and the American population is currently more polarized than it has been in a while. Violent rhetoric has become all too familiar in political discourse. But how did we get here and how can we reach back to a time when we could earnestly speak about our moral values with each other?

This course attempts to intervene in this polarization by giving you the skills and time to engage in the systematic evaluation of classical and/or contemporary ethical theories concerning the good life, human conduct in society, morals, and standards of value. More importantly, however, this course will also explore how those theories are applied in real life, Both individually and more broadly in policy.

Course requirements: This course will consist of both asynchronous and synchronous assignments. All asynchronous assignments are in D2L Brightspace. Additionally, you will need to participate in discussions both synchronously and asynchronously. You will also need to write a brief research essay and prepare a presentation on your findings to present to the class. I will provide more information on each assignment as we move through the session.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

Attendance = 5%

Discussion = 20%

Quizzes = 50%

Research Essay = 20%

Presentation = 5%

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:

While life does happen, the structure of this course means that your deadlines are fairly set in stone. We will cover material during the face-to-face and you will usually have a brief assignment to complete during the class. If you need more time for these assignments, you will need to inform me as soon as possible. The asynchronous portion of the class will provide you with a window to complete the readings, discussions, and assignments. Please see D2L Brightspace for due dates.

Attendance Policy: You must attend class as this is an 8-week course. If you must miss a class please notify me as soon as you can. You are still expected to submit all assignments on time despite any absences. Anything more than 2 absences or $\frac{1}{4}$ of the entire session will result in an FN drop. Attendance will be taken in person and recorded in Brightspace D2L.

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. Define and appropriately use important ethical terms to analyze an ethical controversy.	Communication Skills (CS)	Discussion
2. Demonstrate a knowledge of major arguments and problems on a given ethical topic.	Critical thinking skills (CT)	Quiz
3. Demonstrate knowledge of major philosophical terms and perspectives on a variety of topics.	Critical thinking skills (CT)	Essay
4. Define and appropriately use important ethical terms to present information on an ethical topic.	Communication Skills (CS)	Presentation
5. Identify, analyze, and utilize various rhetorical appeals.	Communication Skills (CS) Critical thinking skills (CT)	Essay

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 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.

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 Humanities Department Chair Brian Anderson at (409) 933-8186 or banderson@com.edu.

Course outline: **Please note this schedule is subject to change, see D2L Brightspace for all due dates**

Week	Synchronous	Asynchronous
Ethical theories		
1-8/20	Ch. 1 & 2, Plato's cave and Truth tables	Ch. 3 Moral skepticism
2-8/27	Hedonism, Consequentialism, Virtue Ethics	Moral reasoning and logical fallacies quiz
3-9/3	Kantian Ethics, Social Contract, Feminist Ethics of Care	Natural Law theory, Prima Facie duties
Applied Ethics		

4-9/10	Abortion and Environmental Ethics	Animal Ethics
5-9/17	Economic Justice and Immigration	Drugs
6-9/24	Racism and Genetic Engineering	Privacy
7-10/1	Sexual Morality and Death Penalty	Essay due 10/3!
8-10/8	Presentations	

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 <https://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.html>. *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, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: AccessibilityServices@com.edu

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, 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 October 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is November 25.

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.

Nondiscrimination Statement:

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.