



PHIL 2306-003I1 and PHIL 2306-005I1
Introduction to Ethics
Fall 2025
Online/Asynchronous

Instructor Information: Brian Harding, bharding@com.edu

Office hours and location: I work remotely. We can zoom, text, call as needed

Required Textbook/Materials: All books will be available **free** in the course webpage

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, two papers 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

Plato Test	100 points
Aristotle Test	100 points
Machiavelli Test	100 points
Reaction Paper 1	50 points
Reaction Paper 2	50 points
Quiz One	25 points
Quiz Two	25 points
Quiz Three	25 points
Quiz Four	25 points
Quiz Five	25 points
TOTAL	525 points

With this in mind, letter grades are assigned as follows:

A: 472+

B: 420-471

C: 367-419

D: 315-366

F: 0-315

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy: Extra credit is only available via the syllabus quiz and introductions. Late work will be assessed *with* a penalty that increases the longer it is late. Life is hectic, and things will happen. I will work with you if you reach out to me (provided there is enough time left in the class before I have to turn in grades) *Do not turn in late work without telling me -- I won't know that you turned it in, so won't know that I need to grade it.*

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)	Paper
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)	Paper
5. Apply ethical concepts and principles to address moral concerns.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Quizzes

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. *Using AI to write papers counts as cheating. AI papers will be given a zero.*

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 please contact Dr. Brian Anderson, Humanities Chair, banderson@com.edu or 409-933-8186.

Course outline:

WEEK 1: Familiarize yourself with 'Housekeeping' and take syllabus quiz; start reading Plato's Republic.
WEEK 2: We will go over books 1-4 of Plato's Republic; Quiz one.
WEEK 3: We will go over books 5-8 of Plato's Republic, reaction paper 1 will be due, as will the second quiz.
WEEK 4: We will go over book 9 and 10 of Plato's Republic and take the test.
WEEK 5: We will go over Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics, books 1-4; reaction paper 2 and quiz 3
WEEK 6: We will go over Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics, books 5-7
WEEK 7: We will go over Aristotle's Ethics, books 8-10 (you can probably skip 9 tbh), quiz 4, and take the test.
WEEK 8: We will go over Machiavelli's Prince; discussion board 3 and quiz 5; Machiavelli test.

Please note: I didn't list the due dates for the quizzes or discussion boards. You will have to look at the course calendar for specific dates. This is just a general outline so you can see how the course will proceed and plan your studies.

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 accommodation 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.