

**MIDSTATE COLLEGE**  
**411 W. NORTHMOOR RD. PEORIA, IL 61614**  
**(309) 692-4092 (800) 251-4299**

**Course number & Name:** PHI 220, Ethics  
**Credit hours:** 4 Quarter Hours  
**Method of Delivery:** eLearning

**Course Description: (IAI H4 904)**

This course is an introduction to the philosophy of ethical values and human conduct. Through a survey of traditional and contemporary philosophies the student will gain insight into the changing nature of moral and ethical principles and be better able to evaluate their own ethical beliefs.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Text:** *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*

**Authors:** James Rachels and Stuart Rachels

**Publisher:** McGraw Hill

**ISBN:** 978-0-07-811906-4

**Materials needed for this course:** Minimum systems requirements to participate in eLearning at Midstate College.

**Topics:**

Morality	Ethical Egoism	Ethics of Care
Cultural Relativism	Social Contract Theory	Virtue Ethics
Subjectivism	Utilitarianism	
Religion	Moral Absolutism	

**Learning Objectives:** Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Define basic ethical terminology and utilize it appropriately through critical reviews of text material.
2. Express a range of opinions and philosophies related to how one should arrive at ethical decisions.
3. Provide a framework of the relationships and relative value of such items as pleasure, truth, knowledge, and moral courage.
4. Apply humanitarian ethics to moral problems.
5. Analyze and present arguments for moral and ethical situations.
6. Support a personal ethical position as well as pinpoint fallacies when they may occur.

**Midstate Grading scale:**

90 - 100 A  
80 - 89 B  
70 - 79 C  
60 - 69 D  
0 - 59 F

**Midstate Plagiarism Policy:**

Plagiarism is using another person's words, either by paraphrase or direct quotation, without giving credit to the author(s).<sup>1</sup> Plagiarism can also consist of cutting and pasting material from electronic sources by submitting all or a

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<sup>1</sup> For instance, the current syllabus is influenced by the work of previous instructors and was presently inherited from Dr. Julie A. Curless.

portion of work for assignment credit. This includes papers, computer programs, music, sculptures, paintings, photographs, etc. authored by another person without explicitly citing the original source(s). These actions violate the trust and honesty expected in academic work. Plagiarism is strictly against the academic policy of Midstate College. Its seriousness requires a measured, forceful response which includes consequences for inappropriate and/or no citation.

In courses containing writing assignments, the College promotes the use of an electronic resource which compares the student's writing against previously submitted papers, journals, periodicals, books, and web pages. Students and instructors can use this service to reduce the incidence of plagiarism. This electronic resource has been found to conform to legal requirements for fair use and student confidentiality. It is able to provide a report to the student indicating the parts of the assignment that match.

#### **Student Success:**

The Office of Student Success is available to students seeking tutoring for individual classes or who need assistance with writing assignments. Information is also available on test taking techniques, how to take notes, developing good study skills, etc. Contact student success using the following email: [studentsuccess@midstate.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@midstate.edu).

#### **Instructor Information:**

Name: Robert Fiedler  
Phone: (309) 692 - 4092  
Email: [rgfiedler@midstate.edu](mailto:rgfiedler@midstate.edu)

#### **Policies, Procedures and Requirements:**

**Class discussions** - A student **must** post to the class discussion forum at least **three** times each week in order to be eligible for full **participation points**. Posts **MUST** be made on at least **two** different days for full points as well. These posts are designed to simulate class discussion and interaction, and will be worth 20% of the student's final grade. The topics each week will be directly related to the material being studied. The initial post should consist of 2 well-developed paragraphs and follow up posts should consist of at least **three sentences** in order for it to count as participation. Take note of your grammar as well. Excessive mistakes may result in a point deduction.

#### **Online Discussions:**

- Maintain "threads" by using the reply button rather than starting a new topic.
- Be polite. Choose your words carefully. Do not use derogatory statements. Be skeptical but respectful of each other's ideas.
- Be prepared to enter and respond to discussions each week.
- Be constructive in your comments and suggestions.

It is important that students review all the material each week for lecture content, assignments, expectations, etc. The syllabus is an overview, but it is essential that all weekly content be read, and assignments and discussion submitted or posted by the end of each week (**Monday, 8am**). I highly recommend posting to the discussion board throughout the week. New content and assignments will be loaded on the course's joule webpage by **Noon on Mondays**.

Late work will be accepted during the week it is due with a 10% penalty. After one week it will no longer be accepted unless arrangements have been made with me. After midterm, the beginning of week 7, I no longer accept late work from weeks 1-6.

#### **Weekly Written Chapter Questions:**

Weekly Questions must be answered with at least 2 well-developed paragraphs (4-6 sentences each), unless otherwise stated. Each answer should highlight the focus points of the chapter. Do not copy and paste from the text, use your own words and your own examples.

### **Methods of evaluating student performance:**

Discussion Forum Participation:	20%
Weekly Assignments (Chapter Questions):	25%
Critical Review Paper (Midterm Paper):	15%
Personal Theory Paper (Final Paper):	20%
Final Exam:	20%

**Project Information (more information will be supplied in the weekly folders):**

#### **Critical Review Papers (midterm paper):**

Students will be required to write a critical review paper for this course. It will be at least 750 words in length and will require the student to analyze an ethical dilemma by applying the theories and concepts learned in the course by midterm. Students are welcome to promote whatever viewpoint or resolution they feel is right, but all sides of any argument must be analyzed in order to receive full points. The students will choose the ethical dilemma and get it approved by the instructor ahead of time or the paper will not be accepted.

#### **Personal Theory Paper (final paper):**

Students will also be required to write a 1000-word paper describing a comprehensive personal ethical theory that can be used as a guide in future ethical decision-making situations. This theory should be grounded in both personal beliefs and the ethical theories and principles studied during the course. Students will decide which theories they adhere to and supply examples from their lives, along with terms from the chapters, to describe how they did and will continue to make ethical decisions in their lives.

All written assignments will be graded taking the following into consideration:

- Comprehension - your ability to communicate understanding of the materials from the text and online discussion.
- Argumentation - how well you use examples and reasoning to “justify” your position. It is not sufficient simply to state your view; you must give adequate explanation or reason for it. Tell not only what, but why. Cite examples from the text or other readings you may have done to support your point of view.
- Clarity - logic and cohesive development in presenting your position.
- Style - how well the project, paper, communication is written to include proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

### **Examination Information:**

There will be one multiple-choice and true/false exam covering chapters of the text. The exam will constitute 20% of the student’s grade for the course.

### **Course Schedule:**

#### *Week 1*

#### **Topics:**

*What Is Morality?* and *The Challenge of Cultural Relativism*

#### **Objectives: 1-6**

#### **Assignments:**

- Read course syllabus
- Read Lecture for Week 1

- Read Chapters 1 and 2
- Answer **Weekly Questions**
- **Post on the discussion board**

### Week 2

#### Topics:

*Subjectivism in Ethics*

**Objectives:** 1-6

#### Assignments:

- Read Lecture for Week 2
- Read Chapter 3
- Answer **Weekly Questions**
- **Post on the discussion board**

### Week 3

#### Topics:

*Does Morality Depend on Religion?*

**Objectives:** 1-6

#### Assignments:

- Read Lecture for Week 3
- Read Chapter 4
- Answer **Weekly Questions**
- **Post on the discussion board**

### Week 4

#### Topics:

*Ethical Egoism*

**Objectives:** 1-6

#### Assignments:

- Read Lecture for Week 4
- Read Chapter 5
- Answer **Weekly Questions**
- **Post on the discussion board**

### Week 5

#### Topics:

*The Social Contract Theory*

**Objectives:** 1-6

#### Assignments:

- Read Lecture for Week 5
- Read Chapter 6
- Answer **Weekly Questions**
- **Post on the discussion board**
- **Dilemma choice/approval to instructor Critical Review Paper due**

### Week 6

#### Topics:

*The Utilitarian Approach and The Debate Over Utilitarianism*

**Objectives:** 1-6

**Assignments:**

- Read Lecture for Week 6
- Read Chapters 7 and 8
- Answer **Weekly Questions**
- **Post on the discussion board**
- **Critical Review Paper Due**

*Week 7*

**Topic:**

*Are There Absolute Moral Rules? and Kant and Respect for Persons*

**Objectives:** 1-6

**Assignments:**

- Read Lecture for Week 7
- Read Chapters 9 and 10
- **Weekly Questions**
- **Post on the discussion board**

*Week 8*

**Topics:**

*Feminism and the Ethics of Care*

**Objectives:** 1-6

**Assignments:**

- Read Lecture for Week 8
- Read Chapter 11
- Answer **Weekly Questions**
- **Post on the discussion board**

*Week 9*

**Topics:**

*Virtue Ethics*

**Objectives:** 1-6

**Assignments:**

- Read Lecture for Week 9
- Read Chapter 12
- **Weekly Questions**
- **Post on the discussion board**

*Week 10*

**Topics:**

*What Would A Satisfactory Moral Theory Be Like?*

**Objectives:** 1-6

**Assignments:**

- Read Lecture for Week 10
- Read Chapter 13
- **Post on the discussion board**
- **Weekly Questions**
- **Keep working on Personal Theory Paper**

## Week 11

### Topics:

*Topics in Philosophy*

**Objectives:** 1-6

### Assignments:

- Read Lecture for Week 11
- Read Materials Presented (found on Joule)
- Answer **Weekly Questions**
- **Post on the discussion board**
- **FINAL Personal Theory Paper Due**

## Week 12

### Topic:

*Final Exam*

**Objectives:** 1-6

### Assignments:

- Complete the online exam by 8am Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>