

GE 802 Ethics: Real Choices, Right Decisions

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Clock Hours: 44 didactic hours

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Quarter Units: 4 credit hours

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Course Location: On-line Course

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Course Schedule:

Office Hours: By appointment for telephone conferences. Online questions on the discussion board or via email receive responses within 24 hours of receipt.

Prerequisites: Acceptance into KPSAHS Bachelor of Science Core Program

Course Description

Human experience and our place in the world are part of ethics. This course design is to examine ethical principles and their social, political and healthcare applications in contemporary issues within the various ethical theories. Application of ethical principles will be discussed in a series of units, grouped into four parts based on Landau text:

Value Theory, which asks what, makes for a good life and a good character;

Normative Ethics, which asks substantive questions about right and wrong actions;

Metaethics, which draws back to ask larger questions about the status of moral claims and properties;

Moral Problems, which involves reasoning about concrete ethical dilemmas and domains of human experience using the tools of logical reasoning and moral vocabulary developed earlier within the programs. Students are encouraged to develop their own positions on ethical issues through discussions and response papers.

The course poses the question, "what is the right act?" a basic question of ethics, encouraging students to think logically about ethical dilemmas of human experience using critical thinking tools to come to well reasoned conclusions.

Textbooks

Required: Shafter-Landau, Russ. (2011). *The Ethical Life: Fundamental Readings & Moral Problems*, (2nd ed.) New York, NY: Oxford University Press

Course Approach

1. This course will consist of online discussions including class participation facilitated by the instructor. Reading assignments will precede each discussion.
2. Handouts (pdfs, ppts, doc etc.), visual aids, and schematics will be used to facilitate the learning process.
3. In addition to scheduled evaluations, periodic reviews will be conducted.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to:

1. Familiarize students with current philosophical problems, reasoning, evaluation and analysis.
2. Evaluate through discussions and written papers the philosophical problem.
3. Respect the diversity of ideals and philosophical positions.
4. Compose a final paper that implements critical thinking and analysis of an ethical dilemma. This paper should include supporting and opposing arguments of the position.

Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:

1. Evaluate the different types of philosophical problems.
2. Assess the position of a philosophical problem.
3. Differentiate multiple positions of the philosophical problem.
4. Identify with others on the importance of their stand on philosophical issues.
5. Develop critical thinking skills by comparing and contrasting ethical dilemmas.

Grading Procedure

Unit Papers (total of 4)	25% of grade
Discussion Board	35% of grade
Mid-Term Examination	20% of grade
Final Exam	20% of grade
Total	100%

**Additional assignments/quizzes may be added at the discretion of the instructor.

Grading Scale and Method

Letter Grade	Percentage in Performance	Grade Points	Note: All coursework must be completed with a minimum grade of “C” (70%) to be considered for credit for coursework in this program. An average test grade of less than 70% is considered a failing grade
A	94 – 100	4.00	
A-	90 – 93	3.70	
B+	88 – 89	3.30	
B	84 – 88	3.00	
B-	80 – 83	2.70	
C+	78 – 79	2.30	
C	70 – 77	2.00	

KPSAHS Academic Policies

Attendance Policy :

As stated in the Student Handbook, students are expected to attend all classes and labs. To approximate this policy in the online environment, class attendance and participation is determined by interaction with online forums and discussions. Attendance and participation is worth 100 points or of the class total.

In addition students must achieve an 85% for their class participation score to receive credit for this course.

Please note that all forums and discussions are due at the end of the week that they are assigned. Failure to submit completed requirements by the due date will result no credit for that assignment.

Make-Up Policy:

The student is responsible for contacting his/her instructor to determine whether make-up work must be completed. Furthermore, the student is responsible for gathering lecture notes or online resources from a student peer or the course homepage.

Students who are late submitting an assignment for online coursework or in submitting forum discussions must notify the instructor by phone prior to the due date in order to be allowed to make up the work at a later date.

The student is responsible for contacting his/her instructor to determine whether make-up work must be completed. Furthermore, the student is responsible for gathering online resources from a student peer or the course homepage if necessary.

It is at the discretion of each individual instructor as to whether or not an exam or assignment can be made-up, regardless of the reason for the absence. The student will be expected to complete the exam or assignment on the day of return and at the discretion of the instructor may have their grade reduced by one letter grade.

Failure to take any exam may result in an incomplete grade for the course. Only one exam may be taken late after an excused absence. If an exam or assignment is missed due to an unexcused absence, it may not be made up and a zero grade will be given for that exam. An unannounced quiz or an assignment missed due to any type of absence may not be made up

and a zero grade will be assigned.

Department Grading Policy:

The final grade is based upon receiving a total score of 70% or greater on all assignments, attendance, papers and examinations. One grade is assigned for the entire course.

In addition, students averaging less than 70% on the midterm, final, and Discussion Board will receive a final grade of “F”.

Discussion Participation Policy:

While much of this course involves your individual efforts, we are also working together as a team in this process. Your active and visible participation online is valued as a contribution to our collaborative learning effort.

Discussions are made of two elements that could be labeled (1) Your initial posting and (2) Classmates. The online discussions in this course are equivalent with the level of discussion in a face-to-face college-level class.

Your portion is (a) your own original response to the discussion prompt and (b) your replies to people who respond to your original message. It is important to check back after your initial post to respond to discussion posts by classmates, who have responded to your initial post.

Example:

Your original post: Based on the assigned reading this is...

Classmates: That is partially true, but in reading the text have you also considered...

Your response: Based on the images and my clinical experience, this is...

The **Classmate** portion of the discussion is when you reply to the original responses to the discussion prompt made by your fellow classmates. You must add something new to the discussion by offering suggestion, asking questions or providing different resources to the topic. Once again, the goal is to make the discussion board a true college-level discussion.

All discussion postings must be professional and respectful in content. The instructor has the right to remove unacceptable posts.

You can earn up to six points per week for discussion participation. Your discussion posts must exhibit college level thinking and analysis of the materials in order to earn the four points and meet the expectations stated above. The length of your initial post should be 250 to 300 words, content and message must be relevant to the discussion board question. Response posts should be between 75 and 125 words. You must log in more than once to participate in the discussion in order to fulfill the expectations as stated in each discussion board activity for the remaining two points.

Cheating and Plagiarism:

Any form of cheating or plagiarism is serious and will not be tolerated. Academic achievement and proficiency in a subject matter cannot be achieved through cheating and/or plagiarism.

Any student, who knowingly cheats, plagiarized and allows/aids another student in cheating or

plagiarism will receive up to and/or including the following:

- A failing grade on a single assignment, test, and/or final course grade
- Suspension or dismissal from the program

Honesty is a necessary trait in all health professionals. KPSAHS expects all students to practice honest and ethical behavior. Inability to fulfill this expectation will result in dismissal from the program.

Online Class Conduct:

Standards of online behavior are simply different from, but not lower than, those for personal behavior. Therefore participation for this course is not limited to just completing the assignments, but is also dependent on your civil and appropriate behavior. Please see the KPSAHS statement of appropriate online behavior in the main course area of your class page.

Finals Examination Policy:

Your Final Paper replaces a formal Final Examination.

For Your final paper, there are three parts:

1. Part one: Submit your movie for approval by week 6 February 4-10, 2013
 - a. The name of the movie
 - b. The ethical theory
2. Part two: Watch your approved movie identifying the ethical theory
3. Part three: Write a 4-5 page critical essay which summarizes what you have learned about the particular theory.

Please email for assistance.

Some suggested titles to get you started are:

- a. Minority Report
- b. Outbreak
- c. The Boy in the Striped Pajamas
- d. Defending your Life
- e. The Emperor's New Groove
- f. Hotel Rwanda
- g. Saving Private Ryan
- h. Trading Places
- i. Overboard
- j. The Incredible Journey of Dr. Meg Laurel

Course Schedule (Tentative)

Week	Date	Subject	Assigned Reading	Exams
1	4/1-4/7	Introduction Ethics and Plagiarism	Link provided on kpscholar to University of Indiana Tutorial	Plagiarism test Discussion Board 1: Icebreaker Interview Summary
2	4/8-4/18	Value Theory	Aldous Huxley: Brave New World Pgs. 27-32 Robert Nozick: The Experience Machine. Pgs. 33-36	Discussion Board 2-A Discussion Board 2-b
3	4/15-4/21	Value Theory	Richard Taylor: The Meaning of Life. Pgs. 37-48 Jean Kazez: Necessities. Pgs. 49-60	Discussion Board 3-A Discussion Board 3-B
4	4/22-4/28	Normative Ethics	Ayn Rand: The Ethics of Emergencies. Pgs. 84-91 Thomas Hobbes: Leviathan. Pgs. 115-125	Discussion Board 4-A Discussion Board 4-B Value Theory Paper Due
5	4/29-5/5	Normative Ethics	Hilde Lindemann: What is Feminist Ethics? Pgs. 150-162 W.D. Ross: What Makes Right Acts Right? Pgs. 126-137	Discussion Board 5-A Discussion Board 5-B
6	5/6-5/12	Mid-Term Examination	Over All Readings	Submit Topic For Final Paper Normative Ethics Paper Due
7	5/13-5/19	Metaethics	J.L. Mackie: The Subjectivity of Values. Pgs. 188-197 Harry Gensler: Cultural Relativism. Pgs. 198-206	Discussion Board 7-A Discussion Board 7-B
8	5/20-5/26	Metaethics	David Hume: Moral Distinctions Not Derived From Reason. Pgs. 165-174 Renford Bambrough: Proof. Pgs. 217-226	Discussion Board 8-A Discussion Board 8-B Metaethics Paper Due
9	5/27-6/2	Moral Ethics	Peter Singer: The Singer Solution to World Poverty. Pgs. 229-236 James Rachels: The Morality of Euthanasia. Pgs. 266-271	Discussion Board 9-A Discussion Board 9-B
10	6/3-6/9	Moral Ethics	Jane English: What do Grown Children Owe Their Parents? Pgs. 229-236 Second Reading : Your choice from Part 4 Moral Ethics	Discussion Board 10-A Discussion Board 10-B Moral Ethics Paper Due
11	6/10-6/16	Final		Final Paper Due 6/ 16/13

Note: The student is responsible for all assigned reading. Although information may not be covered in the lecture, this material WILL be included on all tests and quizzes.