

Department:

Philosophy

Course Description:

An introduction to ethical theory focusing on the major traditions of Western philosophical ethics and their practical application to contemporary moral issues.

Course Competencies:

The learning outcomes and competencies detailed in this syllabus meet or exceed the learning outcomes and competencies specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups for this course as approved by the Kansas Board of Regents. (Kansas Regents Shared Number Course and Title: KRSN Course PHL 1020 Ethics.)

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize the significance of moral philosophy in broader cultural and historical contexts.
 - a) Students will show familiarity with the philosophical development of various normative ethical theories.
 - b) Students will recognize key characteristics of philosophical inquiry such as its emphasis on careful reasoning and analysis and how it differs from other kinds of inquiry.
2. Identify and explain basic ethical theories, terminology and concepts.
 - a) Students will demonstrate an understanding of major normative ethical theories, schools of thought, or problems within ethics. Examples might include deontology, utilitarianism, or Western and Asian conceptions of virtue.
 - b) Students will explain key ethical terms as understood within ethical theories (examples might include good, rights, duty or happiness) or as applied to moral problems such as the permissibility of abortion, capital punishment, our duties to animals, etc.
3. Identify, develop and evaluate, in writing, ethical analyses and moral arguments based on philosophical reasoning and provide cogent reasons in support of competing moral and/or ethical claims.
4. Apply ethical theories to moral problems and state alternative points of view by developing positions supported by cogent arguments.

Course Content:

- A. Ethical Theories of Major Western Philosophical Traditions
- B. Application of Moral Theory to Contemporary Issues

Learning Assessments:

Course competencies may be assessed by class participation, documented written commentaries on the reading assignments, quizzes, and exams.

Instructional Materials:

Textbook: MacKinnon, B. (2018). Ethics: Theory & Contemporary Issues. (9th ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning. ISBN-13: 978-1305958678

Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students must complete the "Disabilities Self-Identification Form" on our Disability Services website.

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.

A Note on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct

Highland Community College seeks to assure all community members learn and work in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Title VII, Title IX, and College policy prohibit harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct.

Highland Community College encourages anyone experiencing harassment, discrimination, or sexual misconduct to talk to report to the Vice President for Student Services, the Human Resources Director or complete an online report about what happened so that they can get the support they need, and Highland Community College can respond appropriately.

There are both confidential and non-confidential resources and reporting options available to you. Highland Community College is legally obligated to respond to reports of sexual misconduct, and therefore we cannot guarantee the confidentiality of a report, unless made to a confidential resource. Responses may vary from support services to formal investigations. As a faculty member, I am required to report incidents of sexual misconduct and thus cannot guarantee confidentiality. I must provide our Title IX coordinator with relevant details such as the names of those involved in the incident. For more information about policies and resources or reporting options, please review our Equity Grievance Policy.