

COURSE SYLLABUS -- ONLINE

Valencia College

(PHI2600) ETHICS AND CRITICAL THINKING – FALL 2021

INSTRUCTOR: Dennis H. Lucius, M.A.

CREDITS: 3

OFFICE HOURS: call Professor Lucius at 407-416-9594 for an appointment

EMAIL: Contact Professor Lucius through college email:
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Study of major theoretical principles on which claims to good life and moral action have been based, such as hedonism, utilitarianism and rationalism. Each theory illustrated by representative selections from works of great philosophers from classical period to 20th century. Gordon Rule course which requires demonstration of college level writing skills through multiple assignments. Minimum grade of C required if used to satisfy Gordon Rule requirement.

This course is taught entirely online.

Major topics include

- Moral reasoning and moral arguments
- Ethical theory - applied ethics - meta-ethics
- Divine Law, Relativism, Egoism
- Utilitarianism
- Deontology
- Social Contract Theories
- Virtue Ethics
- Care Ethics
- Contemporary moral issues

TEXT:

Mackinnon Barbara; Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues, Concise Edition, 8th ed., Wadsworth-Cengage Learning.

Note that you will be responsible for 12 chapters in the text, plus a possible additional chapter with a topic corresponding to your final essay. You **MUST** have the text.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Identify key assumptions and implications of major moral theories and concepts.
2. Define moral concepts.
3. Identify key assumptions and key arguments in the public debate surrounding contemporary moral issues.
4. Evaluate moral arguments in the public debate for coherence, consistency, and plausibility, using understanding of moral theories.
5. Construct moral arguments.
6. Reflect on the connection between moral perspectives and personal and civic responsibilities.
7. Demonstrate college-level writing.

The Student Learning Outcomes listed in this syllabus are those required actions that a student who successfully completes the course must be able to perform. The educational experience, however, is a two-way, interactive process involving both the student and the instructor. The student must play an active role in the learning process in order to be successful. A student who is unable to accomplish the outcomes will not receive a passing grade in the course.

DEADLINE FOR GRADUATION APPLICATION-- January 24

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Each student has individual responsibility for logging in and completing the work on Blackboard. You will receive the points you earn. There is no separate attendance requirement. One exception is that you must post an assignment or discussion post or short quiz by **JANUARY 19** in order to avoid being withdrawn as a "no-show". Merely logging in is not enough to avoid being dropped as a "no-show".

ATLAS EMAIL

The instructor will use the Atlas email system for contacting students. Each student is required to check their Atlas email so they do not miss any important announcements from the instructor. The instructor is not responsible for information that is missed because a student failed to check their Atlas email frequently. Also, if you do not keep your Atlas mailbox maintained by deleting all old messages from your inbox, sent box, and deleted messages box, you may not receive email.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

MARCH 20 is the withdrawal deadline for the spring term for receiving a “W” grade. If you withdraw from a course prior to this date, you will automatically receive a “W,” regardless of the grade you were earning at the time. A withdrawal after the deadline can only be performed administratively. A student is not permitted to withdraw from this class after the withdrawal deadline; if you remain in the class after the withdrawal deadline, you can only receive a grade of A, B, C, D, F or I.

Students who are not passing and who stop posting to the class and who do not withdraw by the deadline will receive an F. The professor will not withdraw any student for any reason; it is the responsibility of the student to withdraw themselves before the withdrawal deadline and to be aware of the date of the withdrawal deadline.

An I (incomplete) grade will only be assigned under extraordinary circumstances that occur near the end of the semester. If you receive an I, the work missed must be made up during the following semester, at which time you will get an A, B,C,D or F. Failure to make up the work during the following semester will result in you getting a grade of F in the course. Any student who withdraws from this class during a third or subsequent attempt in this course will be assigned a grade of “F.”

GRADING

A student can earn 1000 points in this class by earning full points on all tests, assignments, and class participation. These points translate to a Final Grade as follows:

A 900 – 1000 points

B	800 – 899 points
C	700 – 799 points
D	600 – 699 points
F	Below 600 points

Points can be earned by completing the following graded work:

165	Eleven discussions (one for each of 11 modules @ 15 points)
110	Eleven homework tasks (one for each of 11 modules @ 10 points)
165	Eleven short quizzes (one for each of 11 modules @ 15 points)
150	Midterm Exam
40	Rough Draft Peer Review
20	Writing Plan/Reflection
150	Final Essay
<u>200</u>	<u>Final Exam</u>
1000	TOTAL POINTS

DETAILS: GRADED WORK

Discussion (15 points @ 11 modules): For each of eleven modules, you will be asked to respond to a discussion question with a 250-300-word response. You will also be asked to respond to the posts of two other students with a 100-word participation post. That makes three posts required per module. You will be graded on content and writing quality.

Homework (10 points @ 11 modules): For each of eleven modules, you will be asked to write a short essay or develop a list or answer a question. You will be graded on content and writing quality.

Short Quizzes (15 points @ 11 modules): For each of eleven modules, you will be given a short quiz. Each quiz is based on the content covered in the module, usually corresponding to a chapter in the text and some additional

reading or videos. These are learning quizzes and you may retake the quiz as many times as you like.

Midterm Exam(150 points): True-false, matching, and multiple choice questions on the content of the first 5 modules.

Rough Draft Peer Review (40 points): Submit a substantial rough draft of your Final Essay for peer review and review the rough draft of one of your peers. Up to 30 EXTRA CREDIT POINTS can be earned by writing more than one review of the rough drafts of your peers.

Writing Plan/Reflection (20 points): With regard to your Final Essay, submit a multiple-step writing plan with reflective commentary.

Final Essay (150 points). Using one of the topics from Part Two of the textbook, write a 1500 word essay that describes and evaluates the ethical issues and arguments for a moral question. The available topics include: Abortion, Euthanasia, Sexual Morality, Pornography, Equality, Legal Punishment, Environmental Ethics, Animal Rights, Stems Cells and Cloning, Violence, and Global Issues. This essay should be properly formatted, with appropriate citations and references. Minimum of three references. Note that the development process asks you to submit in stages a thesis statement, outline, rough draft for peer review, and final draft.

Final Exam (200 points). True-false, matching, and multiple choice questions on all of the content covered in the class.

EXTRA CREDIT: Up to 30 EXTRA CREDIT POINTS can be earned by writing extra peer reviews in the rough draft peer review. Other extra credit may be announced later.

INSTRUCTOR'S PET PEEVES/POLICIES

Respect the instructor and other students. Let's be nice in the discussions. In this class there are no bad questions and disagreement is handled without emotion or insult. The instructor wants everyone to feel comfortable so they will participate in the discussions.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Each student is required to follow Valencia policy regarding academic honesty. All work submitted by students is expected to be the result of the

student's individual thoughts, research, and self-expression unless the assignment specifically states "group project." Any act of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with Valencia policy as set forth in the Student Handbook and Catalog.

Any assignment showing signs of plagiarism will be graded zero. Students are advised to keep planning notes and outlines should the need for authentication arise. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence that may result in failure of a particular assignment, failure of a particular class and or exclusion from the college. If you are unsure as to what constitutes plagiarism on an essay, consult the professor. Also, learn more by visiting <http://valenciacollege.edu/west/arts-and-humanities/writing/plagiarism.cfm>

LATE/MISSED WORK

All work must be submitted by the deadline. No late work will be accepted without a late penalty: 10 percent reduction in points for each day late. No late Final Essays will be accepted. Since there is a range of days available for taking the Midterm Exam and the Final Exam, there will be no make-up exams.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a notification from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the instructor, preferably during the first two weeks of class.

Office for Students with Disabilities (West-SSB 102) determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities.

The goal at the OSD is to open doors, remove barriers and assist you in any way the can. The key to success is matching your needs to the services provided. Please contact this office to discuss your individual needs. The link to Valencia's OSD website: <http://www.valenciacollege.edu/osd>

Student Feedback on Instruction (SFI)

Near the end of the term, you will receive an invitation through your Valencia email account asking you to complete the Student Feedback on Instruction (SFI). This is a

survey which provides us with feedback on your experience in this class and helps us improve the course. The results are released only *after* grades are submitted. Student names are *not* included in the results –your responses will be anonymous. You will get an email from Valencia informing you when the SAI survey will open.

Student Assistance Program

Valencia College is interested in making sure all our students have a rewarding and successful college experience. To that purpose, Valencia students can get immediate help with issues dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, adjustment difficulties, substance abuse, time management as well as relationship problems dealing with school, home or work. BayCare Behavioral Health Student Assistance Program (SAP) services are free to all Valencia students and available 24 hours a day by calling (800) 878-5470. Free face-to-face counseling is also available.

COVID GUIDELINES:

Throughout the COVID pandemic, Valencia College has been primarily focused on the health and well-being of its students and faculty and staff. This continues to be our priority as we return to more face-to-face classes, and college policy continues to be guided by science and the guidelines issued by the CDC and our partners at Orlando Health. I urge all students who are able to do so to get vaccinated and encourage friends and family to do so as well.

Should you become ill with COVID, please inform me and your professors and coworkers both for your safety, the safety of our Valencia community. I will do what I can to assist you in completing successfully our coursework. Please inform our COVID liaison Tanya Mahan (COVIDillness@valenciacollege.edu) as well, so she can support you in this process. We are in this together! For more information, please consult: <https://valenciacollege.edu/about/coronavirus/>.

RECORDING

Students may record video or audio of class lectures for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a planned presentation by a college faculty member or instructor, during a scheduled class, delivered for the purpose of transmitting knowledge or information that is reasonably related to the pedagogical objective of the course in which the student is enrolled. Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to class discussions, student presentations, labs, academic exercises involving student participation, and private conversations, is prohibited. Recordings may not include the image or voice of other students in the class, may not be used as a substitute for class participation and class attendance, and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the College's Student Code of Conduct.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE/COURSE TIMELINE

To succeed in the class, please adhere to the following schedule:

Module One

8/25 Initial Response to Discussion Question

8/29 Last Day for Discussion Participation Posts

8/29 Homework 1

8/29 Short Quiz 1

8/30 DROP/REFUND DEADLINE

9/3 Deadline for submission of at least one homework, discussion, or quiz to avoid being dropped as a NO-SHOW.

Module Two

9/1 Initial Response to Discussion Question

9/5 Last Day for Discussion Participation Posts

9/5 Homework 2

9/5 Short Quiz 2

Module Three

9/8 Initial Response to Discussion Question

9/12 Last Day for Discussion Participation Posts

9/12 Homework 3

9/12 Short Quiz 3

Module Four

9/15 Initial Response to Discussion Question

9/19 Last Day for Discussion Participation Posts

9/19 Homework 4

9/19 Short Quiz 4

Module Five

9/22 Initial Response to Discussion Question

9/26 Last Day for Discussion Participation Posts

9/26 Homework 5

9/26 Short Quiz 5

9/27 - 10/4 Midterm Exam available

Module Six

10/6 Initial Response to Discussion Question

10/10 Last Day for Discussion Participation Posts

10/10 Homework 6

10/10 Short Quiz 6

Module Seven

10/13 Initial Response to Discussion Question

10/17 Last Day for Discussion Participation Posts 10/11

10/17 Homework 7

10/17 Short Quiz 7

Module Eight

10/20 Initial Response to Discussion Question

10/24 Last Day for Discussion Participation Posts

10/24 Homework 8

10/24 Short Quiz 8

Module Nine

10/27 Initial Response to Discussion Question

10/31 Last Day for Discussion Participation Posts

10/31 Homework 9

10/31 Short Quiz 9

11/3 Withdrawal Deadline

Module Ten

11/3 Initial Response to Discussion Question

11/7 Last Day for Discussion Participation Posts

11/7 Homework 10

11/7 Short Quiz 10

Module Eleven

11/10 Initial Response to Discussion Question

11/14 Last Day for Discussion Participation Posts

11/14 Homework 11

11/14 Short Quiz 11

11/16 - 11/19 Rough Draft Peer Review

11/30 Final Essay Due, Writing Plan Due

11/29 - 12/8 Final Exam available