PHI 2600-12268

Ethics and Critical Thinking

Fall Semester 2022

Monday/Wednesday 11:30am – 12:45pm

Building 1 Rm. 234

Course Syllabus

**Contact Information**: Professor Terme Kazmierski

**Email**: tkazmierski@valenciacollege.edu

**Office:** West Campus Bldg. 1 Room 234

**Office Hours**:

**Course Description**: The 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 will be represented from works of great philosophers. Gordon Rule course requires a demonstration of college level writing skills. Minimum grade of C is required to satisfy Gordon Rule requirement.

**Prerequisite**: ENC 1101 (for any writing course)

**Term**: Full Fall Semester- August 22, 2022 – December 11, 2022

**Required Text**: *Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues* by Barbara MacKinnon and Andrew Fiala.

**Other Instruction Materials**: This class will have a module in Canvas and any additional readings will be posted here.

**Student Responsibilities**

* **You are responsible for being familiar with the syllabus**
* **You are responsible for checking for updates to the syllabus or any sudden changes of plans. I will usually announce such things in class, but Blackboard is official.**
* **You are responsible for making sure your work is turned into me and received by me. If you have emailed me an assignment I will send a reply that it was received.**
* **Please be prepared for each section by completing the assigned readings. I can’t make you read, nor can I really check whether you have read. However, class participation and discussion will be noted. I reserve the right to give quizzes when I see student participation dropping.**

**HB233**: 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.**

**Important Dates**: Drop/Refund Deadline – August 28, 2022

Graduation Application Deadline – September 9, 2022

Withdrawal Deadline – October 28, 2022

Labor Day – September 5, 2022 - **NO CLASS**

Thanksgiving Break – November 23-November 27- **NO CLASS**

**Course Format**: The course will be taught through a combination of lecture, classroom discussion and course readings. Extra readings, assignments and other activities will be provided.



**Electronic Devices**: **Cellular phones cannot be on your desk at any time. Text messaging or answering your cell phone while in-class will be considered disruptive behavior and can be a cause for your dismissal from class. NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND NO TEXT MESSAGING. At no time will you be allowed to listen to your IPOD or MP3 player in class. You are not allowed to have any music device on your desk. Also, notebooks (computers) are not to be used during class. It is distracting to other students.**

**Attendance**: If you must miss a class or activity or are late it will impact your grade. Classroom and activity attendance and punctuality is vital to academic success.  Excused absences will be allowed in accordance with Valencia’s official policies.

You must attend class all semester, be on time and submit the assignments on the due dates to meet the attendance requirement.

I understand that things happen sometimes. If possible please send me an email telling me you will not be in attendance. I also understand that you may have to leave early, please let me know at the beginning of class.

**Class Participation**: Participation in class involves a number of variables, including but not limited to:

* Your willingness to participate actively in all class activities.
* Your cooperation during group and pair work.
* Your respect and attitude toward the class and your peers.
* Your daily preparation for each class.
* Your instructor may assign written homework that will be collected and graded; these assignments form part of your participation grade.

**Class Participation**: 

**Withdrawal Policy**: Per Valencia Policy 4-07 (Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and Withdrawals), a student who withdraws from class before the established deadline for a particular term will receive a grade of “W”.

A student may withdraw at any time during the term in Atlas. The New Withdrawal Policy has been implemented. Here’s what you need to know about the new Withdrawal Policy:

·         Students may withdraw themselves for a W up until the withdrawal deadline.

·         After the withdrawal deadline each semester, students can no longer withdraw themselves.

·         WP and WF have been deleted from Withdrawal procedures.

·         Before the withdrawal deadline, both a student and faculty may withdraw the student.

·         After the withdrawal deadline, a student cannot withdraw him-/herself.

Excessive absences/ Lateness of fifteen minutes or early departure will count as a miss hour. A professor can withdraw you from a course for excessive absences without your permission. (2002-03 College Catalog p.62) Do not leave early without informing me. This is disruptive and rude.

Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting or is clearly disrespectful of the instructor or fellow students will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include but is not limited:

. Rude or disrespectful behavior;

. Unwarranted interruptions;

. Failure to adhere to instructor’s directions;

. Vulgar or obscene language, slurs, or other forms of intimidation;

. Physically or verbally abusive behavior.

Student’s behavior that is inappropriate will result in disenrollment from the course.

**Make Up Policy**: Exams and Final Exam cannot be made up.  NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

**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.

Professors should include here their rules about Plagiarism or attached the document I sent about the topic.

VCC Expected student conduct: 10-03 Student Code of Conduct

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Specific Authority: | 1006.60, FS. |
| Law Implemented: | 1006.60, FS. |

Valencia College is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge and learning, and to the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia, a student assumes the responsibility for knowing and abiding by the rules of appropriate behavior as articulated in the Student Code of Conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the faculty. Faculty may direct students who engage in inappropriate behavior that results in disruption of a class to leave the class.  Such students may be subject to other disciplinary action which may include a warning, withdrawal from class, probation, suspension, or expulsion from the college.  Please read the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook.

Here is the link to Valencia’s Student Code of Conduct website: <http://www.valenciacollege.edu/policies/policydetail2.cfm?PolicyCatID=10&PolicyID=3>

Exams and homework are considered individual effort; any submissions that are too similar for coincidence will receive no credit.

Students may collaborate in group assignments. Collaboration should be used to edit or to clarify doubts.  If anyone is involved in incidents of cheating a zero will be given. Each student is expected to be in complete compliance with the college policy on ***Academic Honesty*** as set forth in the admissions catalog and the student handbook. Any student(s) cheating on an exam will receive a zero on the exam. This cannot be replaced with the final score and the professor at his/her discretion can withdraw you from the class.

**All of the following are considered plagiarism:**

* turning in someone else's work as your own
* copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
* failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
* giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
* changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
* copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules).

|  |
| --- |
| **IF IT IS FOUND THAT YOU HAVE PLAGIARIZED YOU WILL RECEIVE AN “F” FOR THE COURSE! NO EXCEPTIONS!!** |

**Classwork**

Class sessions begin promptly at 11:30am on Mondays & Wednesdays. Students are expected to attend each lecture having read the material assigned for that day. I want to make this class as rewarding for everyone as possible and class discussion is a good facilitator for the learning process. Please come prepared to participate in class. If I feel that the class is not doing the required reading I have been known to give pop quizzes

**THESE QUIZZES WILL COUNT AGAINST YOUR FINAL GRADE!**

Please don’t make me do this. I hate doing it.

**Classroom Behavior**

* Please make sure to be courteous and respectful of each other. In discussing philosophical topics, you might learn things about what people think that you disagree with or dislike. Please do not let this affect your behavior toward your classmates.
* When addressing a perspective you disagree with (especially one expressed by a classmate) please refrain from any abusive characterizations. In other words; don’t make it sound stupid just because you don’t agree with it.

**Graded Essays**

1. Students will write a total of four (4) persuasive essays that will be 3-4 pages in length (not including the Works Cited page) throughout the semester on a current event and discuss how it applies to the ethical theory we have read and/or discussed in class. Outside material should be used. Write the paper making a valid and factual argument using the ethical theory we go over in class. **The Guidelines for Each Essay are the same!**
2. Only choose ONE (1) very narrow topic. This is a short paper so narrow the subject to something very specific.
3. Choose a topic carefully because you will also be writing the opposing view for the next paper. Only use reputable/credible sources. A reputable/credible source is one that **is written by someone who is an expert in their discipline and is free of errors and bias**.

**For example**: If you write your first paper in support of gun control the next paper must be for the opposing view.

1. Write the paper as if the reader does not know about the topic. Define the theory and discuss it in terms of the current event you chose.
2. **Do not forget to include ethical theory, you will be marked down if it is not included**!
3. Longer papers are acceptable but **the limit is 5 pages**. **ALL PAPERS MUST BE TURNED IN VIA CANVAS! I WILL NOT ACCEPT PAPERS VIA EMAIL!**
4. A rubric can be found on Canvas. (Continued on Next Page)
5. Only APA or MLA formatting will be accepted. Times New Roman with 12 Point Font and double spaced **ONLY**! Do not have fun with margins, bold or line spacing. Must be submitted in **Microsoft Word Format**. You will be marked down if this is not abided by.
6. If you use outside sources to prove your argument you **MUST** cite correctly using APA format and a Works Cited must be included. I encourage you to use outside sources, it will not only help to defend your argument but it will also help you become better acquainted with writing formatting.
7. The textbook **is** considered an outside source and therefore must be cited and included in the Works Cited.
8. A title page and/or abstract are not necessary.
9. Papers that are less than the minimum required number of pages will be marked down.
10. **Unicheck will be used and you will see a similarity score immediately. Please make sure to utilize this tool.**
11. **You will be given 5 days before the turn in date if you would like to submit the paper early. You will also be given a 2 day grace period after the due date with a point deduction.**
12. **There is a two day grace period for late papers but your paper will be deducted by 10 points automatically if it is turned in during this time. I WILL NOT ACCEPT PAPERS AFTER THIS GRACE PERIOD.**

**Discussions**

Starting the second day of the course a discussion prompt will be posted in Canvas. You will have one week to respond to the prompt AND respond to at least one other student. This is a large part of your participation grade. There will be a total of 7 Discussion Posts worth 50 points each.

* Please make sure to be courteous and respectful of each other. In discussing philosophical topics, you might learn things about what people think that you disagree with or dislike. Please do not let this affect your behavior toward your classmates.
* When addressing a perspective you may disagree with (especially one expressed by a classmate) please refrain from any abusive characterizations. In other words; don’t make it sound stupid just because you don’t agree with it.

**ONCE A DISCUSSION BOARD IS CLOSED IT WILL NOT BE RE-OPENED. YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THAT DISCUSSION AND POINTS WILL NOT BE GRANTED!! NO ACCEPTIONS!!**

**Graded Assessments**

In this course you will have the opportunity to earn a maximum of 960 points. Each graded assignment will be given a particular number of points. If you send me one picture of a sloth any time throughout the semester, you will receive 3 extra points on your lowest scored assignment. You can calculate your own grade at any time by dividing the number of points you have earned by the total number of points that have been available at that point. It is your responsibility to keep track of your grades. This is part of taking control of your own education.

**Assignment Points**

Syllabus Quiz 10 Points

Discussion 350 Points

Written Assignments 500 Points

Attendance 100 Points

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Letter Grade** | **Quality Points (per credit)** | **Point Value** | **Description** |
| A | 4.0 | 850-960 | Excellent |
| B | 3.0 | 750-849 | Good |
| C | 2.0 | 650-749 | Average |
| D | 1.0 | 550-649 | Passing Below Average |
| F | 0 | 0-549 | Fail |

**Internet Research**: Because of the variety of sources, ease of publication, lack of central control and proliferation of commercial information on the free Internet, it is often hard to tell if the information is reliable.  Many sites contain research and information of high quality.  However, unlike traditional print publications or library-based electronic resources, there is usually no process of peer review, nor is there an editor verifying the accuracy of information presented on the Internet.

There are an increasing number of sites containing information that may be incomplete, anonymously written, out-of-date, biased, fraudulent, or whose content may not be factual. Students should, therefore, use caution in use of the Internet for their research needs when working on activities.

For academic topics that are addressed in scholarly literature, uses of electronic databases or visiting the library may better meet your needs.

**Students with Disabilities**

Students who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a letter from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first week of class.  The 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

**Course Calendar**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Reading** | **Info** |
| **August 22** | Canvas: Syllabus | Introduction and go over course policies and syllabus |
| **August 24**  **Discussion 1 Posted** | **Textbook: Chapter 1**  Pages 1-14 | What is Ethics?  Ethical Theory, Critical Thinking, and Philosophy |
| **August 29** | **Textbook: Chapter 2**  Pages 15-29 | Religion and Global Ethics  Drop Deadline January 15 for 100% Refund |
| **August 31**  **September 5** | **Textbook: Chapter 3**  Pages 30-39  **Labor Day** | Ethical/Moral Relativism  **No Class** |
| **September 7** | **Textbook: Chapter 3**  Pages 30-39 (Cont.) | Ethical/Moral Relativism (Cont.) |
| **September 12** | **No Class** | **No Class** |
| **September 14**  **Discussion 2 Posted** | **Textbook: Chapter 4**  Pages 41-50 | Egoism and Altruism  **Paper 1 Due!** |
| **September 19** | **Canvas:**  The Social Contract by Jean-Jacques Rousseau  Book 1 Pages: 1-10 | Social Contract  **Link on Canvas** |
| **September 21** | **Textbook: Chapter 5**  Pages 53-64 | Utilitarianism: John Stuart Mill |
| **September 26** | **Textbook: Chapter 5** | Utilitarianism: John Stuart Mill (Cont.) |
| **September 28**  **Discussion 3 Posted** | **Textbook: Chapter 6**  Pages 67-77  Immanuel Kant *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*  Chapter 1 | Deontological Ethics:  Immanuel Kant  **Link on Canvas** |
| **October 3** | **Textbook: Chapter 7**  Pages 80-88 | Natural Law and Human Rights |
| **October 5** | **Textbook: Chapter 7**  Pages 80-88 | Natural Law and Human Rights (Cont.)  **Paper 2 Due!** |
| **October 10** | **Textbook: Chapter 8**  Pages 90-96 | Virtue Ethics: Aristotle |
| **October 12**  **Discussion 4 Posted** | **Textbook: Chapter 9**  Pages 99-108 | Feminist Thought and Ethics of Care |
| **October 17** | **Canvas:** *Gender Trouble* by Judith Butler  **Pages 1-6 (Section 1)**  *The Second Sex* by Simone de Beauvoir  **Pages 1-3** | Feminist Thought (Cont.)  **Link on Canvas** |
| **October 19** | **Textbook: Chapter 10**  Pages 111-125 | Euthanasia |
| **October 24** | **Textbook: Chapter 12**  Pages 152-164 | Sexual Morality |
| **October 26**  **Discussion 5 Posted** | **Textbook: Chapter 13**  Pages 170-187 | Equality and Discrimination |
| **October 31** | **Desiree Melton**  *Monticello’s Whitewashed Version of History*  *Bell Hooks: Black Looks-Intro. ONLY* | Equality and Discrimination (Cont.)  **Links on Canvas** |
| **November 2** | **Textbook: Chapter 14**  Pages 192-209 | Economic Justice  **Paper 3 Due!** |
| **November 7** | **Textbook: Chapter 15**  Pages 213-229 | Punishment and the Death Penalty |
| **November 9**  **Discussion 6 Posted** | **Textbook: Chapter 16**  Pages 235-251 | Environmental Ethics |
| **November 14** | **Textbook: Chapter 17**  Pages 258-271 | Animal Ethics |
| **November 16** | **Textbook: Chapter 18**  Pages 276-293 | Biotechnology and Bioengineering |
| **November 21 – 25** | **Thanksgiving**  **Break** | **No Class** |
| **November 28** | **Textbook: Chapter 19**  Pages 298-314 | Violence and War |
| **November 30**  **Discussion 7 Posted** | **Textbook: Chapter 20**  Pages 318-330 | Global Justice and Globalization |
| **December 5** | **Textbook: Chapter 11**  Pages 132 - 144 | **Abortion** |
| **December 9** | **Final Short Paper Due** | **Paper Due in Canvas!** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |