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Office hours: by email appointment only

## PHL 202 ELEMENTARY ETHICS (3)

Winter 2022

LINN BENTON COMMUNITY CENTER

Wednesdays: 1-2.20

On ZOOM

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is a general introduction to ethical theories and topics. It uses reflective and critical reading, thinking, writing skills and discussion to explore the methods and ideas of ancient and modern Ethics such as relativism, egoism, social contract theory, Utilitarianism or Kantianism. The course will raise important questions such as: are there any objective moral standards, what makes the right acts right and the wrong ones wrong and how do we know it, what is evil? The course includes explanations and illustrations of the central theories of Ethics as well as close scrutiny of standard arguments supporting and critiquing these theories. Applies ethical theories to contemporary moral problems and personal dilemmas.

### **PERFORMANCE BASED LEARNER OUTCOMES:**

1. Upon successful completion of the course, student should be able to:
2. Explain the most important ancient and modern theories of Ethics and the standards arguments used to support them.
3. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of ethical theories in light of how they address actual moral dilemmas.
4. Articulate a personal ethical perspective on how one should live well.
5. Use Ethics to better understand and resolve personal, social, and political problems.
6. Use various forms of written and verbal discussion to articulate understanding and practical application of various aspects of Ethics.
7. Write coherent essays using textual support, documentation (where applicable) and standard grammar/mechanics.
8. Thoughtfully and respectfully engage those who hold different ethical views.

### **PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE**

- \* Students must participate to receive credit for each day's class ("arrive" on time, complete in-class assignments, follow instructions, etc.).
- \* Please do not email me if you can't come to class from any other reasons than the medical ones (e.g. you can't start your car, you need to take your grandma shopping etc.)
- \* You are responsible for your learning process as much as for your work. Keep copies of assignments and "back up" your computer files. If absent, make sure to obtain notes from another student.
- \* Check LBCC email regularly as it is the instructor's first point of contact. You may also want to check Instructor's website since there may be some updated information during the term.

- \* Incomplete grades are only an option for students who have finished at least 80 percent of the course work with a passing grade and are facing an emergency that prevents them from finishing the class. Requests for incompletes must be made to the instructor in writing.
- \* Students with a disability who need accommodation should notify the instructor and the Office of Disability Services at the start of the term.
- \* Emergency. A policy exception may be made is if a student has kept in close contact with an instructor during an emergency, though that does not guarantee an exception.

### **METHODS OF ASSESSMENT:**

Attendance.	40%
Active participation	10%
Four quizzes	20%
Four reflection pieces	20%
Final EXAM	10%

### **ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION:**

This class is based on the in class dialogue and guided discussions that will allow you to break down the assigned reading into more understandable pieces. Because your input into the class discussions and in class group projects is essential you will be required to fully participate in our ZOOM calls i.e. “arrive” on time, complete in-class assignments, follow instructions, etc.. Points will be deducted of your grade if you are missing a class. If you intend to leave ZOOM early make sure to notify the instructor.

### **REFLECTION PIECES:**

Every other day you will be asked to submit your brief reflection pieces (1-2 pages long) in which you will be asked to evaluate one of the prompts shared with you in class. I will ask you to explore your thoughts about the assigned topic and express your questions and ideas concerning the issue.

### **QUIZZES:**

Every other week you will be asked to take a quiz which will consist of 10 questions pertaining to the preceding weeks.

### **FINAL EXAM:**

Your final exam will consists of 40 questions from our biweekly quizzes.

### **FINAL GRADE DISTRIBUTION**

**A 100-90 %; B 89-80%; C 79-70%; D 69-60%; F 59% and below.**

### **LEARNING RESOURCES:**

Textbooks: **James&StuartRachels, *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*;**

Additional texts and articles available on Moodle; lectures supported by power point presentations; Audios and videos and other resources available online.

### **Helpful internet links:**

Guide to Study Philosophy: <http://www.philosophypages.com/sy.htm>  
Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://plato.stanford.edu/>  
The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://www.iep.utm.edu/>

## READING SCHEDULE / Winter 2022

### WEEK I 1/5

Reading:

Weekly Assignment:

#### ETHICS AND MORALITY

1/ *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*; ch.1 & ch.4

Listen to: Philosophy Talk „Where does morality come from?“

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### WEEK II 1/12

Reading:

Weekly Assignment:

#### CULTURAL RELATIVISM

1/ *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*; ch.2

REFLECTION PIECE # 1

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### WEEK III 1/29

Reading:

Weekly Assignment:

#### ETHICAL SUBJECTIVISM

1/ *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*; ch. 3

QUIZ #1

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### WEEK IV 1/26

Reading:

Weekly Assignment:

#### ETHICAL EGOISM

1/ *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*; ch.5

REFLECTION PIECE # 2

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### WEEK V 2/2

Reading:

Weekly Assignment:

#### SOCIAL CONTRACT THEORY

1/ *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*; ch.6

QUIZ # 2

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### WEEK VI 2/9

Reading:

Weekly Assignment:

#### CONSEQUENTIALISM

1/ *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*; ch.7 & ch.8

REFLECTION PIECE # 3

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### WEEK VII 2/16

Reading:

Weekly Assignment:

#### DEONTOLOGY

1/ *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*; ch.9 & ch.10

QUIZ # 3

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### WEEK VIII 2/23

Reading:

Weekly Assignment:

#### VIRTUE ETHICS

1/ *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*; ch. 12,

REFLECTION PIECE # 4

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### WEEK IX 3/2

Reading:

Weekly Assignment:

#### APPLIED ETHICS: CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

1/ “In Defense of the Death Penalty” (moodle)

2/ “The Case against the Death Penalty” (moodle)

QUIZ # 4

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### WEEK X 3/9

Reading:

#### BIOETHICS

1/ J. Rachels “The Morality of Euthanasia” (Moodle)

FINAL EXAM

## **STUDENT CONDUCT**

- Students are expected to conform to all standards in Linn-Benton CC Student Handbook. This includes practicing both personal and academic integrity. Students are to respect the rights of all people and contribute to a safe, cooperative and respectful learning atmosphere.
- Respect. We will maintain an atmosphere of mutual respect. Cell phones will be silenced during class unless arrangements are made with the instructor. There will be no text messaging, no headphones, no Ipods, no laptops except for note taking. One person talks at a time. To learn and grow together, people must feel free to share and explore ideas in a safe, open setting. Disagreement is fine, but it must be intelligent, considerate, and respectful. If a student is disruptive and/or disrespectful, the student will be removed.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Academic honesty is an indispensable value as students acquire knowledge and develop skills in college. Students at Linn-Benton Community College are expected to practice academic honesty by not cheating, plagiarizing, or misrepresenting their coursework in any way. Students are ultimately responsible for understanding and avoiding academic dishonesty whether such incidences are intentional or unintentional. Consequences for cheating, plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty may include receiving a score of zero on an individual assignment or failing the class.

If at any time you are not sure about the legitimacy of your writing, ask your instructor for clarification. Note: students may be required to turn in copies of any source they use.

## **DISABILITY STATEMENT**

You should meet with your instructor during the first week of class if:

- You have a documented disability and need accommodations,
- Your instructor needs to know medical information about you, or
- You need special arrangements in the event of an emergency.

If you have not accessed services and think you may need them, please contact Disability Services, 917-4789. If you have documented your disability, remember that you must complete a Request for Accommodations form every term in order to receive accommodations.

## **ADDITIONAL REMARKS**

\*One-on-one conferences with the instructor may be required.

\*Students who do not contact the instructor prior to the start of the second class may be dropped per Linn-Benton Community College's No Show Drop policy.

\*Students may be required to submit electronic copies of their essays to their instructor for examination with Safe Assign and/or other plagiarism detection software.

Just because I am friendly does not mean that I am your friend so please refrain from calling me by name and dropping of emails that have nothing to do with the class.