

# SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE IN ILLINOIS

## Course Syllabus

### General Ethics PHI 213-70

#### Session B: March 5 - May 6, 2007

Classroom: D-114 - Dawson Hall  
Class Meeting: W 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
Office Hours: W 5:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. (D-114)

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- I. **Course Description:** A fundamental course in traditional Western ethical theories from ancient to modern, covering basic ethical questions such as the meaning of what is good, the problem of determinism vs. free will, the nature of social good and justice and the meaningfulness of moral language. 3 credit hours
- II. **Textbook:** *Applying Ethics: A Text with Readings*, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition, Olen, VanCamp, Barry, Thomson/Wadsworth, 2008. ISBN-10: 0495094994.
- III. **Mission Statement:** The mission of Springfield College in Illinois is to provide students the best liberal arts education in the Ursuline tradition of a nurturing faith-based environment. We prepare students for a life of learning, leadership and service in a diverse world.
- IV. **Goals, Objectives, and Outcomes:**
  - A. **Goals:**
    1. To learn what ethics is about: moral reasoning, what is good, what is right, and what we ought to do.
    2. To give students an understanding of basic ethical theories, their significance, and their implications.
    3. To present to students classical theories of ethics.
    4. To assist students in developing a methodology for addressing contemporary ethical issues.
    5. To cultivate in students the ability to read with a heightened and critical awareness of ethical situations.
    6. To encourage students to respect diversity of opinions and cultures.

**B. Common Student Learning Objectives (CSLOs) Adopted December 9, 2004 Are Addressed:**

1. *Content Knowledge (Lifelong Learning)* - CK-1 - Know and apply the central concepts of the subject matter.
2. *Communication Skills (Lifelong Learning and Leadership)* - CS-1 - Communicate effectively in oral and written forms.
3. *Social Responsibility (Service and Leadership)* - SR-2 - Make ethical and informed decisions.
4. *Global Perspectives (Diversity)* - GP-1 - Recognize the importance of diversity of opinion, abilities, and cultures.
5. *Self-Direction and Personal Growth (Lifelong Learning)* - SP-1 - Develop a sense of intellectual curiosity.
6. *Problem Solving Skills (Lifelong Learning and Leadership)* - PS-1 - Use inquiry and collaboration to solve problems.

**C. Course-Based Student Learning Objectives (CBSLO):**

1. To articulate and define common ethical language and to apply ethical reasoning to factual situations in a decision-making context (CK-1, CS-1, SR-2, GP-1, PS-1).
2. To understand classical theories of ethics (CK-1, SP-1).
3. To analyze various ethical theories (CS-1, SR-2, GP-1).
4. To apply moral reasoning, critical methods, logic, and ethical theories to solving contemporary moral issues (CK-1, CS-1, SR-2, PS-1).

**V. Teaching Methods:** In-class lecture/discussion sessions.

**VI. Course Requirements:**

- A. Attendance:** Attendance is required. Since the course involves only eight classes within the module, students are expected to attend and participate in each class. Students will be given credit for class participation, and this participation will be an integral part of the overall class grade. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the reading assignments.

- B. Reading Assignments:** Reading assignments are in the Course Outline which follows in VIII. Chapters for Class 1 should be read prior to the class. In all instances, students should read the assignment before the indicated class, be prepared to discuss the material in class, and participate in class activities concerning the same.
- C. Written Assignments:** There will be three papers/essays required for this class. Essays will be assigned by the instructor, written outside of class, and must be typed. At least one paper will be orally presented.
- D. Exams:** There will be two exams during the session. They will be held during the first hour of Classes 4 and 8. The exams will focus almost exclusively on terms, concepts, and ethical theories as highlighted in class and the textbook.

## **VII. Means of Evaluation:**

### **A. Grading:**

1. Attendance and class participation - 400 points
2. Papers (100 points per paper) - 300 points
3. Class presentation of paper - 100 points
4. Exams (100 points per exam) - 200 points

### **B. Grading Scale:**

900-1000 points = A  
800-899 points = B  
700-799 points = C  
600-699 points = D  
0-599 points = E

- C. Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is defined as “the act of appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts or passages of his writing, or the ideas of language of the same and passing them off as the product of one’s own mind.” *Black’s Law Dictionary*, 1035 (5<sup>th</sup> Ed. 1979). Generally, plagiarism is immoral, but may not be illegal. Plagiarism will not be countenanced. Also useful to establish guidelines for delineating plagiarism is Diana Hacker’s definition: “Three different acts are considered plagiarism: (1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words,” *A Writer’s Reference*, Diana Hacker, Bedford St. Martin’s Press, 2003, page 331.

## VIII. Course Outline:

<b>March 7</b> Class 1	Introductions - Discussion of syllabus, assignment of first paper Moral reasons, Good reasoning <b>Read chapters 1 and 2.</b>
<b>March 14</b>	<b>No class; Spring Break</b>
<b>March 21</b> Class 2	Sexual morality, Abortion <b>Read chapters 3 and 4.</b>
<b>March 28</b> Class 3	<b>Paper 1 is due. Assignment of 2nd Paper.</b> Capital punishment <b>Read chapter 7.</b>
<b>April 4</b> Class 4	Review Euthanasia, Human cloning, and Stem cell research <b>Read chapters 5 and 6.</b>
<b>April 11</b> Class 5	<b>Paper 2 is due. Assignment of 3rd Paper.</b> <b>EXAM 1</b> War, Terrorism and civil liberties <b>Read chapter 8.</b>
<b>April 18</b> Class 6	Welfare and social justice, Discrimination <b>Read chapters 9 and 10.</b>
<b>April 25</b> Class 7	<b>Paper 3 is due. Oral presentation of paper.</b> Animal rights, Environmental ethics <b>Read chapter 11.</b>
<b>May 2</b> Class 8	Review <b>EXAM 2</b> Computer ethics and the internet <b>Read chapter 12.</b>

## IX. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Springfield College in Illinois provides individuals with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in educational programs, activities, and services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in college-sponsored programs, activities, and services or to meet course requirements should contact the Dean of Student Affairs as early as possible.

**X. Assessment: Classroom Assessment Techniques**

The goals, objectives, and student learning outcomes listed above will be assessed through the written assignments, presentations, and exams. The instructor will also utilize prior knowledge inventories, directed paraphrasing, RSQ2C exercises, misconception/ preconception checks, and other Classroom Assessment Techniques as deemed necessary to provide continuous improvement in instruction. All students are required to participate in all assessment measures. Feedback on lectures and assignments is encouraged and will be respected.