

# SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE IN ILLINOIS

## Course Syllabus

### General Ethics PHI 213-70

#### Session D: July 11 - August 15, 2007

Classroom: D-224 - 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-224)

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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. Textbooks:** *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, 5th Edition, Rachels, McGraw Hill, 2007; *The Right Thing to Do*, 4th Edition, Rachels, McGraw Hill, ISBN: 9780073304069 or old ISBN: 0073304069. If bought as a package, students save \$14.00 over individual text prices.
- 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 assist students in developing a methodology for addressing contemporary ethical issues.
  4. To cultivate in students the ability to read with a heightened and critical awareness of ethical situations.
  5. To encourage students to respect diversity of opinions and cultures.

6. To encourage students to think critically.

**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 six classes within the module, students are expected to attend and participate in each class. An absence for any reason will result in a mark down. More than one absence may result in a failing grade. 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. An assignment is late if it is not turned in at the class it is due. If late, at least one fourth of the points for the assignment will be deducted.
- D. Exams:** There will be two exams during the session. They will be held during the first hour of Classes 3 and 6. 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 (plus possible additional extra credit up to 10 points for exceptional work)
3. Exams (150 points per exam) - 300 points

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

930-1000 points = A  
850-929 points = B  
770-849 points = C  
700-769 points = D  
0-699 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:

- July 11**            Introductions - Discussion of syllabus, assignment of first paper  
Class 1            Morality, Relativism, Subjectivity, Religion  
**Read chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 of "Elements."**
- July 18**            **Paper 1 is due.**  
Class 2            Egoism, Utilitarianism, Absolutism  
**Read chapters 5, 6, 7 and 8 of "Elements."**
- July 25**            **EXAM 1**  
Class 3            Kant, Social Contract, Feminism, Virtue  
**Read chapters 9, 10, 11 and 12 of "Elements."**
- August 1**            Assigned Readings in "Right Thing"  
Class 4            Subjectivity, Poverty, Environment  
**Read chapter 13 of "Elements."**
- August 8**            **Paper 2 is due.**  
Class 5            Readings in "Right Thing"  
Euthanasia, War, Cloning
- August 15**          **Paper 3 is due. FINAL EXAM**  
Class 6            Readings in "Right Thing"  
(There will be 2 hours of lecture and class discussion before Final Exam)  
"Letter from the Birmingham Jail" and "Lincoln's 2nd Inaugural Address"

## 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.

## **XI. Ethics Statement**

An integral component of this course is student and professor self-disclosure and the use of personal experiences for the purpose of facilitating coursework. Each student is expected to honor confidentiality as it pertains to student disclosure. No shared information, comments, or opinions expressed by another student or instructor in the educational setting should ever be used in a manner which is intended to humiliate, embarrass, or otherwise injure the student in his/her personal, public or business life.

An additional integral component of this course is challenging one's own perceptions and beliefs regarding contemporary moral issues and integrating information as well as understanding opposing perceptions and beliefs. Please respect our various points of view and the diversity you will experience in this course.

## **XII. Illinois Articulation Initiative**

PHI 213 has been approved by the Illinois Articulation Initiative as meeting the criteria stipulated for *S2.901 and H2 905*. IAI H4 904

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