SYLLABUS

DATE OF LAST REVIEW: 02/2013

CIP CODE: 24.0101

SEMESTER: Departmental Syllabus

COURSE NAME: Ethics

COURSE NUMBER: PHIL-0206

CREDIT HOURS: 3

INSTRUCTOR: Departmental Syllabus

OFFICE LOCATION: Departmental Syllabus

OFFICE HOURS: Departmental Syllabus

TELEPHONE: Departmental Syllabus

EMAIL: KCKCC issued email accounts are the official means for electronically communicating with our students.

PREREQUISITES: A score of 75 or higher on the reading portion of the ACCUPLACER exam or successful completion of Composition I.

REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS: Please check with the KCKCC bookstore, http://www.kckccbookstore.com/, for the required texts for your particular class.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE: This branch of philosophy is primarily concerned with the values and principles which underlie human acts and purposes. Multicultural philosophical contributions to solving ethical problems are examined for critical understanding. Ethics focuses on evaluating theories about what constitutes the good life.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION: A variety of instructional methods may be used depending on content area. These include but are not limited to: lecture, multimedia, cooperative/collaborative learning, labs and demonstrations, projects and presentations, speeches, debates, panels, conferencing, performances, and learning experiences outside the classroom. Methodology will be selected to best meet student needs.
COURSE OUTLINE:

I. Ethics and Ethical Reasoning
   A. What is Ethics?
   B. Ethics and Reasons
   C. Ethical Reasoning and Arguments
   D. Ethical Theory
   E. Types of Ethical Theory
   F. Ethics vs. Religion, Law, and Etiquette

II. Ethical Relativism
   A. What is Ethical Relativism?
   B. Two Forms of Ethical Relativism
   C. Arguments For and Against Ethical Relativism

IV. Egoism
   A. Psychological Egoism
   B. Ethical Egoism
   C. The Moral Point of View
   D. Why Be Moral?

V. Utilitarianism
   A. Mill’s Principle of Utility
   B. Mill: Quantity and Quality of Pleasure
   C. Act and Rule Utilitarianism
   D. Contemporary Versions: Preference Utilitarianism and Cost-Benefit Analysis

VI. Kant’s Moral Theory
   A. The Good Will
   B. Two Forms of The Categorical Imperative
   C. Perfect and Imperfect Duties
   D. Variations on Kantian Moral Theory

VII. Virtue Ethics
    A. Virtues and Everyday Life
    B. Plato’s Virtue Ethics
    C. Aristotle’s Virtue Ethics
    D. Masculine and Feminine Virtues

VIII. Natural Law and Natural Rights
    A. Natural Law Theory
    B. Aristotle’s Natural Law Theory
    C. Aquinas’s Natural Law Theory
    D. Locke’s Natural Law Theory
IX. Social Contract Theory
   A. Why Does Society Need Moral Rules?
   B. Morality, Self-Interest, and Game Theory
   C. The Motive to Always Be Moral

X. Applied Ethics (Suggestions)
   A. Euthanasia
   B. Abortion
   C. Sexual Morality
   D. Pornography
   E. Equality and Discrimination
   F. Economic Justice
   G. Legal Punishment
   H. Environmental Ethics
   I. Animal Rights
   J. Stem-Cell Research, Cloning, and Genetic Engineering
   K. Violence, Terrorism, and War
   L. Global Issues and Globalization

EXPECTED LEARNER OUTCOMES:

   A. The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the philosophical discipline of Ethics and ethical reasoning.
   B. The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of Ethical Relativism.
   C. The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of Ethical Egoism.
   D. The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of Utilitarianism.
   E. The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of Kant’s Moral Theory.
   F. The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of Virtue Ethics.
   G. The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the role of natural law and natural rights in ethical discourse.
   H. The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between social contract theory and ethics.
   I. The student will be able to apply various ethical theories to contemporary issues.

COMPETENCIES:

*The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the philosophical discipline of Ethics and ethical reasoning.*

1. The student will be able to define “Ethics.”
2. The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of what counts as ethical reasons.
3. The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of ethical reasoning and arguments.
4. The student will be able to explain what is meant by “ethical theory.”
5. The student will be able to distinguish between different types of ethical theory.
6. The student will be able to distinguish between ethics and religion, law, and etiquette.

**The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of Ethical Relativism.**
7. The student will be able to define “ethical relativism.”
8. The student will be able to discuss and evaluate two forms of ethical relativism.
9. The student will be able to reconstruct and evaluate arguments for and against ethical relativism.

**The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of Ethical Egoism.**
10. The student will be able to define “psychological egoism.”
11. The student will be able to define “ethical egoism.”
12. The student will be able to explain the distinction between psychological egoism and ethical egoism.
13. The student will be able to explain and discuss the moral point of view.
14. The student will be able to discuss various responses to the question, “Why be moral?”

**The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of Utilitarianism**
15. The student will be able to define Mill’s principle of utility.
16. The student will be able to explain and discuss Mill’s distinction between quantity and quality of pleasure.
17. The student will be able to explain and discuss the distinction between act and rule utilitarianism.
18. The student will be able to explain and evaluate contemporary versions of utilitarianism (preference utilitarianism and cost-benefit analysis).

**The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of Kant’s Moral Theory.**
19. The student will be able to explain and discuss Kant’s notion of “the good will.”
20. The student will be able to explain and evaluate two forms of the categorical imperative.
21. The student will be able to explain and discuss Kant’s perfect and imperfect duties.
22. The student will be able to discuss contemporary variations on Kantian Moral Theory.

**The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of Virtue Ethics.**
23. The student will be able to explain virtue ethics.
24. The student will be able to discuss virtues and everyday life.
25. The student will be able to explain and evaluate Plato’s virtue ethics.
26. The student will be able to explain and evaluate Aristotle’s virtue ethics.
27. The student will be able to distinguish and discuss masculine and feminine virtues.

**The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the role of natural law and natural rights in ethical discourse.**
28. The student will be able to define “natural law theory.”
29. The student will be able to explain and evaluate Aristotle’s natural law theory.
30. The student will be able to explain and evaluate Aquinas’s natural law theory.
31. The student will be able to explain and evaluate Locke’s natural law theory. **The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between social contract theory and ethics.**
32. The student will be able to discuss various explanations with regard to why society needs moral rules.
33. The student will be able to explain and evaluate theories relating morality, self-interest, and game theory.
34. The student will be able to explain and discuss theories addressing motives to always be moral. **The student will be able to apply various ethical theories to contemporary issues.**
35. The student will be able to apply ethical theories to issues such as euthanasia, abortion, sexual morality, and pornography.
36. The student will be able to apply ethical theories to issues such as equality and discrimination, economic justice, and legal punishment.
37. The student will be able to apply ethical theories to issues such as environmental rights, animal rights, and stem-cell research, cloning, and genetic engineering.
38. The student will be able to apply ethical theories to issues such as violence, terrorism, and war, and global issues and globalization.

**ASSESSMENT OF LEARNER OUTCOMES:**
Participation in group and class discussions.
Passing scores on four exams and a short term paper/service learning projects.

**SPECIAL NOTES:**
This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Material included is intended to provide an outline of the course and rules that the instructor will adhere to in evaluating the student’s progress. However, this syllabus is not intended to be a legal contract. Questions regarding the syllabus are welcome any time.

Kansas City Kansas Community College is committed to an appreciation of diversity with respect for the differences among the diverse groups comprising our students, faculty, and staff that is free of bigotry and discrimination. Kansas City Kansas Community College is committed to providing a multicultural education and environment that reflects and respects diversity and that seeks to increase understanding.

Kansas City Kansas Community College offers equal educational opportunity to all students as well as serving as an equal opportunity employer for all personnel. Various laws, including Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, require the college’s policy on non-discrimination be administered without regard to race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin, physical handicap, or veteran status and that such policy be made known.

Kansas City Kansas Community College complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need accommodations due to a documented disability, please contact Director of Academic Resource Center, in Room 3354 or call (913) 288-7670.
Kansas City Kansas Community College

21st Century General Education Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcomes
Discipline knowledge and content mastery is expected of all graduates. More specifically, KCKCC is committed to the Learning Outcomes listed below. We believe that competence in the Learning Outcomes is essential for the success of graduates and will enhance their ability to become contributing members of our increasingly complex world. These areas of knowledge and skills are equally valid for all KCKCC graduates, whether they transfer to a four-year college or pursue a career after leaving college.

General Education Learning Outcomes

Communication Learning Outcomes
The learner will have the ability to express, interpret, and modify ideas/information effectively (both written and oral), including but not limited to reading text accurately and correctly; writing with a clear purpose and effective organization; speaking effectively using appropriate styles that suit the message, purpose, and content; and employing active listening techniques.

Computation Learning Outcomes
The learner will have the ability to understand and apply mathematical concepts and reasoning using numerical data.

Critical Reasoning Learning Outcomes
The learner will understand inductive and deductive reasoning and have the ability to define problems and use data (qualitative and quantitative) to make complex decisions utilizing analysis, synthesis, and evaluation skills.

Technology and Information Management Learning Outcomes
The learner will have the ability to define, collect, organize, analyze, and evaluate information from a variety of sources. The learner will also have the ability to understand basic technology concepts and functionality in order to use technology as a tool to locate and retrieve information.

Community and Civil Responsibility Learning Outcomes
The learner will demonstrate knowledge, awareness, and understanding of diverse ideas, values, and perspectives of a culturally diverse world; an understanding of the ethical issues and values that are prerequisites for making sound judgments and decisions; a recognition of the obligation to become actively involved as a contributing member of the community; and a sensitivity to the awareness of aesthetic expression.
**Personal and interpersonal Skills Learning Outcomes**

The learner will have the ability to work cooperatively and productively with others; to understand and evaluate his/her capabilities; to manage his/her personal growth by setting realistic and appropriate goals.

**SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES STUDENT SUCCESS STRATEGIES**

Know your instructor’s name.

Turn off your electronic devices in class/make paying attention to the work of the class your only concern.

Miss class only when you cannot attend/acquire missed information and materials ASAP.

Know your syllabus.

Know the attendance policy.

Know the requirements for tests and assignments.

Know information about final exam and make-up exams.

Know instructor’s position on use of Wikipedia or other online sources.

Know the instructor’s preferred writing style (APA, MLA, etc.).

Always know your grade.

Contact your teacher ASAP with concerns or questions.

Know the benefits of the academic resource center.

Know if your course has a practicum, service learning component, or other exception.

Use an academic planner.

Know the course withdrawal policy.

Know your instructor’s office hours and make appointments when necessary.

Know the school’s scholastic honesty policy.

Be familiar with the course learning objectives, course competencies, and the college’s 21st century learning outcomes for general education.