

Course: PHI 115
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisite: 12 hours.

Course Title: Ethics & Contemporary Issues
Department: Philosophy

General Education Area:
PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Public Issues (*GEC 116*)

Information submitted by a department representative on 4/30/2021 12:58:04 PM – Compiled by Darren Wienberg, Academic Advising & Transfer Center

Typically Offered During:

Fall Full Semester:	YES	Fall 1 st Block:	NO	Fall 2 nd Block:	NO
Spring Full Semester:	YES	Spring 1 st Block:	NO	Spring 2 nd Block:	NO
Summer:	YES				

Typical Instructional Modality:

Traditional (seated):	YES	Blended:	NO	Internet:	YES
Online Video:	NO	Web Conference:	NO		

May Also Count Toward Department Offering:

Major:	YES	Minor:	YES	Certificate:	NO
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Please see online published semester class schedule and undergraduate catalog for detailed course offering information.

How do you describe the course to students when they ask “What is this class about?” (Without using the catalog description)?

As a discipline, philosophy critically analyzes and challenges our foundational assumptions. This class introduces students to ethical theory and ethical reasoning, encouraging them to think critically about both and to consider contemporary ethical issues through that critical lens.

Beyond meeting a General Education requirement, what benefits can students realize from choosing this course?

In addition to the SLOs associated with this course, students will gain an understanding of some of the ethical problems that modern societies face, evaluate some of the solutions that ethicists have offered, and learn how one might go about trying to solve those problems oneself in a philosophical way. In doing so, students will learn how to critically read a text, evaluate arguments, and to argue clearly for one’s own position.

Other than your major/minor/certificate students, what groups of students could find this course relevant to their degree program or career path?

Since philosophy just is critical thinking, any student will benefit from the practice of critical thinking that any philosophy course provides. In addition, every discipline and career will raise ethical issues, and students will learn how to think about the ethical issues arising in their disciplines through this course (for example, students in the medical sciences tend to find the philosophical discussion of euthanasia helpful in thinking about their disciplines).

Catalog Description (Fall 2022 Undergraduate Catalog)

This course examines ethical principles and theories in relation to contemporary moral issues (e.g. euthanasia, capital punishment, economic justice, environmental issues, world hunger). Through a consideration of ideals of justice and human dignity, as well as concepts of rights and responsibilities, it also explores the moral requirements for community and justified political order.