

PVAMU Course Syllabus
PHIL 2023 – Ethics
Division of Social Work, Behavioral and Political Sciences

Program: **Philosophy**

**Brailsford College of
Arts and Sciences**

Instructor Name: *Dr. Tschaepe*
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Office Hours:

**Course Location &
Class Meeting Days & Times:**

Course Abbreviation and Number: **PHIL 2023**

Catalog Description: Combines the philosophical study of normative ethics with the study of contemporary applied ethics through examination of a number of tendencies and schools of ethics from various cultures, societies and historical periods. The aim of the course is to enhance the student's awareness and sensitivity to the perplexity of morality and the moral life.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1123

Co-requisites: N/A

Required Texts: *Plato: Republic*. Trans. G.M.A. Grube. Hackett: Indianapolis, 1992.

Rosenstand, Nina. *The Moral of the Story: An Introduction to Ethics*. McGraw Hill: New York, 2013.

All other required texts and videos will be provided by the instructor on ecourses.

Access to Learning Resources: PVAMU Library:
phone: (936) 261-1500;
web: <http://www.tamu.edu/pvamu/library/>
University Bookstore:
phone: (936) 261-1990;
web: <https://www.bkstr.com/Home/10001-10734-1?demoKey=d>

Course Goals or Overview:

The objective of this course is to enhance the student's awareness and sensitivity to the perplexity of morality and the moral life, as well as introduce the student to effective tools for ethical decision-making.

Course Objectives/Accrediting Body

At the end of this course, the student will demonstrate ethical decision-making and problem-solving skills. The student will also display knowledge of the ethical and social mores of diverse cultures and societies.

This course meets the core objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication, Social Responsibility, and Personal Responsibility.

Aligns with:	Alignment with Academic Program	Alignment with Core Curriculum
1 Be able to recognize and apply basic patterns of logical reasoning within ethical contexts.	Teach 1 and 2 Reinforce 3	Critical Thinking
2 Be able to describe selected theories with meta-ethics and normative ethics, as well as selected arguments for and against those theories.	Teach 1 and 2 Reinforce 3	Communication
3 Demonstrate insight into their own ethical approach to moral decision making in reference to meta-ethical and normative ethical theory.	Teach 1 and 2 Reinforce 3	Personal Resp.
4 Define key concepts and terms associated ethical reasoning and ethical theory.	Teach 1 and 2 Reinforce 3	Critical
5 Be able to summarize the contribution of historically significant figures in the field of moral philosophy/ethics.	Teach 1 and 2 Reinforce 3	Thinking
6 Discuss in both oral and written discourse the ethical theories and issues explored in the course such as Virtue Ethics, Kantian Moral Theory, Utilitarianism, and Pragmatism.	Teach 1 and 2 Reinforce 3	Social Responsibility
.	Teach 1 and 2 Reinforce 3	Communication

Course Assignments & Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Exams – 5 exams will be administered throughout the semester. These will be 10 questions each over the readings.

Weekly Comprehension Assignments – there will be weekly assignments that are to be completed online. These will be 5 questions each over that week’s reading. These cannot be taken if missed.

In-class Presentation – each group must give one in-class presentation at the beginning of a scheduled class over that class’s reading for the day. The presentation will be 20 minutes long and will include a summary of the reading, statistical and graphical data, an argument and at least 5 questions generated by the students.

Reading Assignments – daily readings designed to supplement and reinforce course material.

Class Participation and Course Rule-Following – daily attendance and participation in class discussions. In addition, all students must closely follow the course rules (see **Class Participation** and Dr. Tschaepe’s List of Rules below).

Course Procedures

Exams

The student must complete all exams as indicated by the course syllabus. Exams will be written. There will be no make-up exams offered unless official documentation for an absence is provided (**50%** of grade). All exams are on ecourses and are 10 questions.

Weekly Assignments

The student must complete all of the in-class writing assignments and provide a presentation for each writing assignment. These assignments cannot be taken if missed during the allotted time (**10%** of grade). All weekly assignments are written and consist of 5 questions over that week’s readings. All assignments are on ecourses. These will be announced in class. You must check ecourses regularly to see if there is a new weekly assignment.

In-class Presentation

This group assignment will be assigned in the middle of the semester. Each group is expected to present an argument concerning an ethical issue that is culturally and/or social relevant, which will include statistical data and graphic representations as support for their argument.

Reading Assignments

The student is to complete all reading assignments as indicated by the course syllabus.

Class Participation

The class schedule and lecture topics lend themselves particularly to class dialogue and interaction. Class discussion should be informed participation based upon the class lecture and the assigned reading material for the day. The student's semester class participation average will constitute **30%** of the student's semester grade. Simply showing up for class every day will earn you a “C” for participation.

Grading Matrix

Instrument	Value (percentages)	Total %
Written Exams	5 exams worth 10% each	50
Written Weekly Assignments	10 assignments worth 1% each	10
In-class Presentation of an ethical issue	1 presentation	10

Class Participation/ Discussion/Following Rules	30% of grade	30
Total:		100

University Rules and Procedures

Disability statement (See Student Handbook):

Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in class should register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal laws, a student requesting special accommodations must provide documentation of their disability to the SSD coordinator.

Academic misconduct (See Student Handbook):

You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

Forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.
2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else's words, ideas, or data as one's own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one's own work also constitutes plagiarism.

Nonacademic misconduct (See Student Handbook)

The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor's ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

Sexual misconduct (See Student Handbook):

Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Attendance Policy:

Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Excessive absences will result in lowered grades. Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student's course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of "F". Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class.

Student Academic Appeals Process

Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

**Philosophy
3013
Schedule
Fall 2012**

Week	Topic	Reading
1	General	Syllabus; Handouts/Videos provided by instructor on e-courses Introduction: What is ethics and why is it important? Ethics and mores. Video, Frontline: College, Inc. http://video.pbs.org/video/1485280975
2	Good/Evil	Chapter 1, Thinking about Values Weekly Assignment #1: Good and Evil
3	Education	Chapter 2, Learning Moral Lessons from Stories Weekly Assignment #2, Are Stories Harmful? Exam #1
4	Defining Justice	Republic, Books I & II Weekly Assignment #3, Incorrect Definitions of Justice
5	Virtues	Republic, Books III & IV Exam #2
6	Appetites & Reason	Republic, Books V & VI Weekly Assignment #4, Reason & Virtue
7	Morality & Politics	Republic, Books VII & VIII
8	The Good Life	Republic, Book IX & X Weekly Assignment #5, 5 types of moral persons Exam #3
9	Relativism & Culture	Chapter 3, Ethical Relativism Weekly Assignment #6, Multiculturalism
10	Individualism	Chapter 4, Myself or Others Weekly Assignment #7, Selfishness vs. Altruism
11	Utility	Chapter 5, Using your Reason: Utilitarianism Weekly Assignment #8, Harm Principle
12	Deontology	Chapter 6, Using your Reason: Kant's Deontology Weekly Assignment #9, Beings as Ends in Themselves
13	Identity	Chapter 7, Personhood, Rights, and Justice Weekly Assignment #10, Defining Racism Exam #4
14	Virtue Ethics	Chapter 8, Virtue Ethics In-class Presentation
15	Summary	Review for Final Exam

Assignment Guidelines and Formatting

1. General Information

Complete syllabus can be downloaded/printed from e-course page content page for the class

Dr. Tschaepe's Office: Woolfolk 316

Dr. Tschaepe's Email: MDTschaepe@pvamu.edu

Students are responsible for all required readings/viewings for the class. Attendance Policy: Attendance will be taken each day via sign in.

2. Grading criteria: 5 Examinations (each exam = 10% of grade); 10 short assignments (each assignment = 1% of grade); In-class Presentation = 10%; Participation = 30%.

3. Examinations

Examinations will be available on the ecourses website for this specific course and section.

Grading Scale:

90-100: A

80-89: B

70-79: C

60-69: D

0-59: F

Make-up examinations will be in essay format.

Time for Make-up examinations must be arranged within 5 days after the examination, which the student missed, and the student must provide official documentation for absence.

Make-up examinations will be taken in Dr. Tschaepe's office or in an examination room with a proctor present.

Only those students who have a valid excuse (University Excused Documentation, Doctor's note) will be permitted to take the make-up examination.

If the student has not made up the missed examination within one week of the exam, that student will receive an automatic F for the examination.

4. Class Reading

Each student must read all of the readings required for each class *before* that particular class as indicated by the syllabus.

Evidence of not having done the reading will detract from the student's participation grade.

5. Attendance: Attendance to each class is mandatory. Students cannot pass the class without attending.

6. How to pass this class:

1. Attend, pay attention, participate, do not distract yourself or other students.
2. Print and read all of the material required for the course.
3. Take notes and participate in discussion.
4. Ask relevant questions.
5. Pass the exams.
6. Read this syllabus and be mindful of each assignment. Knowing when assignments and readings are due is your responsibility.
7. Do not text or chat in class.
8. Do not show up to class late. If you are over 10 minutes late to class, Dr. Tschaepe will not count you in the class for that day. This will be reflected in your participation and attendance.
9. If you are concerned with the difficulty of the material, do not wait until the end of the semester to discuss this with Dr. Tschaepe. Discuss this as soon as you begin to have difficulties.
10. Realize that the grade you earn is the grade you receive.

College of Arts and Sciences Student & Staff Aspiration Statement

The faculty and staff of the College of Arts and Sciences at PVAMU are committed to providing the best possible quality education to its students. To that end, we will work hard to prepare the students for success by setting the proper academic environment and background necessary to facilitate learning. In order for us to be successful, there are some basic expectations our students must demonstrate. These expectations are a simple ingredient to foster camaraderie and *'esprit de corps'* in every class and classroom on campus. Additionally, these are lifelong fundamental learning skills to better prepare students for success in America's job market.

CAS student expectations:

- You are expected to come to class prepared and on time.
- Higher education is an investment in your future, to that end; you must endeavor to be properly equipped for class. (i.e. School supplies, text, and other supporting materials).
- Resolution of any classroom issues (i.e. Grades, course materials, etc) should begin with the instructor.
- If you must leave early, notify the instructor before the class begins, sit by the door, and exit quietly.
- Be considerate of your fellow classmates; please turn off all phones, pagers and other electronic devices.
- Do not talk to other students during lecture. If you have a question or a comment on the subject being discussed, address it to the instructor directly.
- Walk quietly through the hallways, classes in other rooms may still be in session.
- Please refrain from eating, drinking, sleeping in class, using profanity, and engaging in any form of horseplay in the classroom it is disruptive to your fellow classmates.
- Be respectful, civil, polite and considerate when dealing with you professors as well as your fellow classmates.
- Student attire is based on personal preference and taste. The rule of thumb is simple, if it projects a statement which is offensive to others, then maturity should dictate that it is probably not a good idea to wear in class.
- Enthusiasm is infectious, a smile and positive attitude will go far to motivate and charge your professors and fellow classmates.

