

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”
- Aristotle

“There are two types of people in this world, good and bad. The good sleep better, but the bad seem to enjoy the waking hours much more.”
- Woody Allen

Philosophy 101 – Ethics and Social Issues

Fall 2018

Section 2

M/W/F 9:00 AM – 9:50 AM

Room: Douglas Hall 110

Satisfies General Education Area D (see learning objectives and evaluations below)

Course Prerequisite(s): GEAR certification before Fall 09; or WPJ score of 80+; or 3-unit placement in ENGL 109M or ENGL 109W; or 4-unit placement in ENGL 109M or ENGL 109W and co-enrollment in ENGL 109X; or WPJ score 70 or 71 and co-enrollment in ENGL 109X.

Instructor Information:

Instructor: J. P. Carboni

E-mail: philosophy.carboni@gmail.com or
Joshua.carboni@csus.edu

Mailbox: Philosophy Department Office:
Mendocino Hall, Room 3000

Office Hours:

- **Monday 10:00 AM – 11:45 AM**
- **Wednesday 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**
- Please email if you need to schedule an appointment
- Office Location: Mendocino Hall, Room #3032

Course Description:

Course Catalogue: “Moral controversies that divide society today, such as abortion, the death penalty, affirmative action, sexism, war and peace. Emphasis is on identifying the relevant values and moral principles underlying competing views and subjecting them to rational assessment.”

Ethics is the study of right and wrong. However, it is more than what this overly simplistic definition implies. Ethics, and the study of ethics, concerns looking at how we act, why we act the way we do and how we justify the way we act. In this course we will briefly review the various traditional/historical ethical theories that have had an impact on the way in which we answer the questions above. However, while traditionally the philosopher has been stereotyped as being the “arm chair quarterback” or “backseat driver” of the moral realm, usually alongside a large wing-backed armchair and a pipe of some type, ethics is about doing. Thus, this class will focus on engaging the ethical mind through an analysis of contemporary issues like abortion, war and terrorism, human rights, animal rights, environmentalism, etc. The course will also include relevant discussions concerning theories of the self, freedom, the role of religion, etc. and how such an understanding impacts our social/ethical views.

Required Textbooks:

Exploring Moral Problems: An Introductory Anthology. (2017). Cahn, Steven M and Andrew T. Forcehimes. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780190670290

Any additional readings that are outlined in the course syllabus will be posted to Blackboard.

Course/Department and Institutional Learning Objectives:

• Area D Learning Objectives

1. Describe and evaluate ethical and social values in their historical and cultural contexts.
2. Explain and apply the principles and methods of academic disciplines to the study of social and individual behavior.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of human diversity in human society, for example, race, ethnicity, class, age, ability/disability, sexual identity, gender and gender expression.
4. Explain and critically examine social dynamics and issues in their historical and cultural contexts.

Student Learning Objectives for Area C3 courses can be viewed at:

<https://www.csus.edu/acaf/ge/GE%20Assessment/Area-D-Learning-Outcomes.pdf>

And for a link to all the CSU Learning Outcomes, please see the following link:

<https://www.csus.edu/acaf/ge/ge-area-criteria-and-outcomes.html>

• Phil 101 Course Learning Objectives:

- 1) Introduce to students to key concepts related to ethics and social philosophy.
- 2) Learn to identify and employ philosophical tools to answer questions concerning ethical and social issues that students encounter in the world around them including sex and reproduction, environmentalism, human, person, and animal rights, drug use, capital punishment, war, torture, euthanasia, affirmative action, abortion, economic inequality, etc.
- 3) Read, comprehend, and analyze complex problems, evaluate arguments, and write clearly and cogently for their own views.
- 4) Identify and distinguish some of the leading contemporary positions in moral and political philosophy.
- 5) Write clear and concise explanations and arguments concerning basic real world ethical issues.

• Additional General Learning Objective: This course is a writing intensive course. As such, there will be numerous writing assignments required to complete the course. Listed below is a link to the Student Writing Handbook here at CSUS:

https://www.csus.edu/indiv/s/stonerm/csus_writing_handbook.pdf

Each of these Department and Course learning objectives will be met through a variety of course assignments including readings, examinations, quizzes, essays, in-class assignments, and class lectures/discussions (each of these is discussed further below).

Standards of Conduct/Course Policies:

• ***Plagiarism and/or cheating*** will not be tolerated in this class. All those who engage in these activities will receive a zero on the associated assignment. In addition, all incidents of cheating and/or plagiarism will be reported to the department chair and to the Judicial Officer in the Office of Student Affairs. It is your responsibility to both know and adhere to Sac State's Academic Honesty Policy. This policy can be found at the following address:
<http://www.csus.edu/umannual/student/stu-0100.htm>

If you wish for more assistance/advice on the issue of plagiarism, please see the following CSUS library link <http://csus.libguides.com/home> (information on citing and researching)

• ***In-Class Participation:*** Purposely "obstructing" the viewpoint of another student in the classroom during classroom discussions is prohibited. This class will involve many discussions concerning the material assigned for homework and the material presented during the classroom lectures. This being a philosophy course, many of these discussions *may* challenge certain beliefs that you hold. Open dialog and proper methods of argumentation (which will be discussed) are not only expected but required for this class.

• ***Attendance/Participation:*** Students are expected to attend each class session. This class will involve many in-class discussions and a significant amount of in-class work. Students are expected to have completed the readings and participate in all in-class discussions.

• ***Cell Phones and Computers:*** Please set your phone to vibrate before class. Cell phones are not to be used in class for any reason. If you must take a call (which I discourage unless an emergency) please step outside before you answer. No texting or Internet use will be allowed in class.

• ***Email Correspondence:*** Monday through Friday I check my Sac State *and* Gmail accounts a minimum of two times each day (morning and evening). If I do not respond to an email that you have sent within one business day, please feel free to resend the email. In order to ensure a prompt reply, all emails that you send must be formatted according to the following link:
<http://www.csus.edu/phil/guidance/how-to-correspond.html>

All emails not formatted according to the above link will be answered last.

• ***Disability Accommodations:***

If you have a disability and require accommodations, you will need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, (916) 278-6955. Information can be found at the following link: <http://www.csus.edu/sswd/ApplicationProcess-Forms.html>. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours *before* the end of the third week of the semester.

• ***Special Note:***

All instructors employed by CSU, Sacramento are 'mandatory reporters' of suspected child abuse or neglect according to the *California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act*. As such, I am bound to the requirements established by CSU Executive Order 1083 which can be found at the following link: <http://www.calstate.edu/eo/EO-1083.html>

• ***Basic Needs Support:***

If you are experiencing challenges in the area of food and/or stable housing, help is just a click, email or phone call away! Sacramento State offers basic needs support for students who are experiencing challenges in these areas. Please visit the Basic Needs website to learn more about your options and resources available. <https://www.csus.edu/basicneeds/>

Evaluation/Homework Assignments:

• ***In-Class Group Assignments:*** There will be a number of randomly assigned, short in-class assignments throughout the term. These assignments will be worth a total of 5 – 10 points each (exact value will be announced prior to each assignment). At the end of the term, a total of 40 points will be possible. *There are no make-ups on missed in-class work.*

• ***Quizzes:*** As outlined on the weekly course breakdown below, there will be two types of quizzes in this class.

(1) ***Reading Quizzes:*** At least once a week and/or prior to each *new section* lecture/new topic, there will be a quiz to be completed prior to the lecture on that reading/subject (see weekly breakdown below for details). These quizzes must be completed in Blackboard and must be completed no later than 10 minutes prior to the scheduled class time. Each Reading Quiz will be made available on the date stated in the weekly breakdown and will be available until 10 minutes before that scheduled class. No make-ups will be given for missing a quiz. These quizzes will be multiple choice and/or true and false. Each quiz will be worth 10 points. Once you begin a quiz, you will have 20 minutes to complete it.

(2) ***Lecture Quizzes:*** This course is scheduled to meet Monday, Wednesday, And Friday. As illustrated in the weekly breakdown below, each class session will involve a lecture/class discussion on the material assigned for that class. At the end of each week (on or after Friday) students will be required to complete a short quiz on the lecture material provided. This quiz will be available in Blackboard on Friday afternoon and must be completed no later than 12:00 PM on Monday. Once you begin a quiz, you will have 20 minutes to complete it. Like each Reading Quiz, the Lecture Quizzes will be multiple choice and/or true and false. Each Lecture quiz will be worth 10 Points.

There will be no make-up quizzes if you miss a quiz (either type). I will, however, drop the lowest score received on each type of quiz at the end of the semester (one reading quiz and one lecture quiz). To do well on these quizzes and thus to do well in the class as a whole, you should make sure to attend class, to actively participate in the lecture and to complete the assigned readings.

• ***Writing Assignments:*** There will be three research/writing assignments in this class. For each assignment, you will be provided with assignment topics, structural details and a grading rubric two weeks prior to the due date for each essay. Assignments must be handed in at the

beginning of class on the day that they are due. No emailed essays or electronically submitted essays will be accepted. Late essays will be docked 5 points for every day that they are late (excluding Saturday and Sunday). If your essay is late, you must arrange a method to hand in the essay with me after the class that the essays are due.

Essay #1 Prompt: **Friday, Sept. 21st**

Due: **Monday, October 8th**

Essay # 2 Prompt: **Friday, October 26th**

Due: **Monday, November 12th**

Essay #3 Prompt: **Friday, November 23rd**

Due: **Friday, December 7th**

• **Basic Essay Guidelines:** Students are expected to adhere to the guidelines posted in both “Writing Guidelines” & “How to Analyze a Philosophical Essay” that are located on the CSUS Department of Philosophy webpage. If necessary, this information will be reviewed in class on *Monday of Week 5* (prior to the first essay being due). Below is the link to the webpage: <http://www.csus.edu/phil/guidance/writing%20guidelines.html>

Below is a link to the department’s outline of proper philosophic analysis:

Philosophical Analysis: <http://www.csus.edu/phil/guidance/how-to-analyze.html>

Below is a link to the Department Grading Guidelines:

Grading Standards: <http://www.csus.edu/phil/guidance/grading-standards.html>

• **Examinations:** There will be two examinations in this class (a midterm and a final exam). There will be a comprehensive review held on the Friday before each exam. There will be no make-ups on exams - except with “extraordinary” circumstances - so schedule outside activities accordingly. Note: Extraordinary circumstances do not include *personal* athletic activities, vacations, car not starting, bought an early plane ticket home/for family vacation, just not feeling like it, etc. Schedule ALL non class related activities accordingly. A doctor’s note (or something similar) will be required to schedule a make-up exam.

Midterm Exam: **Wednesday, October 17th (Week 8 – Times TBA)**

Final Exam: **Monday, December 12th 10:15 AM – 12:15 PM**

• **Extra Credit:** *There will be one extra credit assignment offered in the Fall 2018 term. This assignment, which will be announced during Week 2, will involve attending a CSUS Ethics Center event. Detailed instructions will be provided for this assignment, including specific event details, during the second week of class. Below are the links to the two event homepages:*

Center for Practical and Professional Ethics: <http://www.csus.edu/cppe/>

• **Grading Scale:**

All essays will be graded based upon an 80-point scale according to the following breakdown:

A Outstanding (75 - 80 pts)

A- Very Good (72 - 74 pts)

B+ Above Satisfactory (68.5 - 71 pts)

B Satisfactory (67 - 68 pts)

B- Below Satisfactory (64 - 67 pts)

C+ Above Average (61 - 63 pts)

C Average (58 - 60 pts)

C- Below Average (56 - 57 pts)

D+ Poor High (53 - 55.5 pts)

D Poor Low (48 - 52 pts)

F Unacceptable (47 and lower pts)

All Examinations will be graded based on a 100-Point scale according to the following breakdown:

A Outstanding (100 - 95 pts)
B+ Above Satisfactory (89 - 86 pts)
B- Below Satisfactory (82 - 80 pts)
C Average (75 - 73 pts)
D+ Poor High (69 - 66 pts)
F Unacceptable (59 and lower pts)

A- Very Good (94 - 90 pts)
B Satisfactory (83 - 85 pts)
C+ Above Average (79 - 76 pts)
C- Below Average (72 - 70 pts)
D Poor Low (65 - 60 pts)

• **Total Point Breakdown:**

- 1) **Reading Quizzes (x18 = 180 pts)**
- 2) **Lecture Quizzes (x13 = 130 pts)**
- 3) **Essay #1: 80 possible pts**
- 4) **Essay #2: 80 possible pts**
- 5) **Essay #3: 80 Possible pts**
- 6) **Midterm Examination: 100 possible pts**
- 7) **Final Examination: 100 possible pts**
- 8) **In Class Work: 45 possible points**

Total Points Possible 795

Final Grade Breakdown: A 795 – 745 pts; A- 744 – 711 pts; B+ 710 – 683 pts; B 682 – 668 pts; B- 667 - 636 pts; C+ 635 – 606 pts; C 605 - 582 pts; C- 581 – 559 pts; D+ 558 – 520 pts; D 519 – 505; D- 504 – 481; F 480 or lower points

Reading/Assignment Schedule:

- Note: (1) All **Reading Quizzes** must be completed no later than 10 minutes prior to the class listed for each quiz
(2) All **Lecture Quizzes** will be posted to Blackboard on Friday (usually – see breakdown below for any schedule changes) and must be completed by 12 PM on Monday each week

General Note About Readings: Unless otherwise noted, all readings will be from the text listed in the course outline above:

Section I: Course Overview and a Solipsistic Question

Week 1: (8/27 – 8/31)

Class Introduction – What Is Ethics and Are We Entitled to Our Opinions?

For Mon: Class Overview

- **In-Class Assignment #1 (10 Points)**

For Wed: Are We Entitled to Our Opinions? (No Reading)

- **In Class Assignment #2 (5 Points):**

For Fri: Reading: Andrew T. Forcehimes, Ethical Theories and Their Application

Section II: Ethics Can Never Be Studied Objectively, right? & A Big Problem With Our Social Mentality

Week 2: (9/3 – 9/7)

Is Ethics A Science?

For Mon:

Holiday – No classes held

For Wed:

Can Science Tell Us What's Right and Wrong? – Reading Posted to Blackboard: DeWitt, Chapter 28

• Due: Reading Quiz #1 (Posted to Blackboard on 9/3)

For Fri:

In-Class Exercise (10 Points)

• Lecture Quiz #1 (Due 9/10 by 12 PM - Posted to Blackboard on 9/7)

Week 3: (9/10 – 9/14)

Some Basic Problems

For Mon:

Reading: Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*

• Due: Reading Quiz #2 (Posted to Blackboard on 9/7)

For Wed:

Ayn Rand's Moral Objectivism has quite a following (Reading posted to Blackboard)

For Fri:

A Possible Answer to Egoism: Game Theory (No New Reading)

• Lecture Quiz #2 (Due 9/17 by 8 AM - Posted to Blackboard on 2/9)

Section III: So, I think I know what Jesus would do ... but what would Mill, Kant and Aristotle Do?

Week 4: (9/17 – 9/21)

Core Traditional Theories: A Review

For Mon:

Reading: John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*

• Due: Reading Quiz #3 (Posted to Blackboard on 9/14)

For Wed:

Reading: Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*

• Due: Reading Quiz #4 (Posted to Blackboard on 9/17)

For Fri:

Reading: Julia Driver, *Virtue Ethics*

• Lecture Quiz #3 (Due 9/24 by 12 PM - Posted to Blackboard on 9/21)

• Review for Writing Assignment #1

Section IV: Solving All the Problems in the World!

Week 5: (9/24 – 9/28)

Topic: Justice is Just Easy to Figure Out

For Mon: Reading: Robert Nozick, *The Entitlement Theory*

• Due: Reading Quiz #5 (Posted to Blackboard on 9/21)

For Wed: Reading: John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*

For Fri: Reading: Iris Marion Young, *Five Faces of Oppression*

• Lecture Quiz #4 (Due 10/1 by 8 AM - Posted to Blackboard on 9/28)

Week 6: (10/1 – 10/5)

Topic: Ethical Issues in the News: Immigration

For Mon: Reading: David Miller, *Immigration: The Case for Limits*

• Due: Reading Quiz #6 (Posted to Blackboard on 9/28)

For Wed/Fri: Reading: Michael Huemer, *Is There a Right to Migrate?*

• Due: Reading Quiz #7 (Posted to Blackboard on 10/1)

For Fri: **• Lecture Quiz #5 (Due 10/8 by 12 PM – Posted to Blackboard on 10/5)**

Week 7: (10/8 – 10/12)

Topic: Is Abortion Really Still An Issue?

For Mon: Reading: Judith Jarvis Thomson, *A Defense of Abortion*

• Midterm Exam Study Guide Provided

• Due: Reading Quiz #8 (Posted to Blackboard on 10/5)

• Due: Writing Assignment #1 (10/8)

For Wed: Reading: Mary Anne Warren, *On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion*

For Fri: Reading: Don Marquis, *An Argument That Abortion Is Wrong*

• Lecture Quiz #6 (Due 10/15 by 12 PM - Posted to Blackboard on 10/12)

Week 8: (10/15 – 10/19)

For Mon: Midterm Exam Review

For Wed: **Midterm Exam 10/17 (Taken on Blackboard)**

For Fri: Review the Exam and In-Class Exercise

• **No lecture quiz for Week 8**

Week 9: (10/22 – 10/26)

Topic: Sexual Harassment and #MeToo

For Mon: Hermeneutical Injustice – Listen to the following:
<https://player.fm/series/examining-ethics/ep-28-philosophy-and-metoo-with-emily-mcwilliams>

• **Due: Reading Quiz #9 (Posted to Blackboard on 10/19)**

For Wed: Reading: N. Ann Davis, *Sexual Harassment in the University*

For Fri: Reading: Margaret A. Crouch, *Sexual Harassment in Public Places*

• **Lecture Quiz #7 (Due 10/29 by 12 PM - Posted to Blackboard on 10/26)**

• **Review Writing Assignment #2**

Week 10: (10/29 – 11/2)

Topic: Is My Dog A Person?

For Mon: Reading: Peter Singer, *Equality for Animals*

For Wed: Reading Bonnie Steinbock, *Speciesism and the Idea of Equality*

• **Due: Reading Quiz #10 (Posted to Blackboard on 10/29)**

For Fri: Reading: Tom Regan, *The Case for Animal Rights*

• **Lecture Quiz #8 (Due 11/5 by 12 PM - Posted to Blackboard on 11/2)**

Week 11: (11/5 – 11/9)

Topic: Let's Solve World Hunger! Well ... Let's Read Some Who Think They Can!

For Mon/Wed: Reading: Peter Singer, *Famine, Affluence, and Morality*

• **Due Monday 11/5: Reading Quiz #11 (Posted to Blackboard on 11/2)**

For Fri: Reading: John Broome, *The Ethics of Climate Change*
• **Due: Reading Quiz #12 (Posted to Blackboard on 11/5)**
• **Lecture Quiz #9 (Due 11/14 by 12 PM – Posted to Blackboard on 11/9)**

Week 12: (11/12 – 11/16)

Topic: Let's Get Controversial: Do We Need More or Less Gun Control?
For Mon: **Veteran's Day Holiday – No Class**

For Wed: Reading: Samuel C. Wheeler III, *Arms as Insurance*
• **Due: Reading Quiz #13 (Posted to Blackboard on 11/9)**
• **Due: Writing Assignment #2 (Nov. 12th)**

For Fri: Reading: David DeGrazia, *Handguns, Moral Rights, and Physical Security*
• **Lecture Quiz #10 (Due 11/19 by 12 PM - Posted to Blackboard on 11/16)**

Week 13: (11/19 – 11/23)

Topic: Did Anyone Watch The Television Show 24?: Morality and Torture

For Mon: Reading: Henry Shue, *Torture*
• **Due: Reading Quiz #14 (Posted to Blackboard on 11/16)**

For Wed: Reading: "Ticking Bombs, Torture, and the Analogy of Self Defense by Daniel J. Hill (Posted to Blackboard)
• **Lecture Quiz #11 (Due 11/26 by 12 PM - Posted to Blackboard on 11/21)**

Posted Friday: • **Review of Writing Assignment #3**

Note about Thursday/Friday: *No Classes – Thanksgiving Holiday (11/22 & 11/23)*

Week 14: (11/26 – 11/30)

Topic: Ice-T Once Said: "Freedom of speech, but watch what you say."

For Mon: Reading: John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*
• **Due: Reading Quiz #15 (Quiz Will Be Taken IN - CLASS on Monday, November 26th)**

For Wed: Reading: Miles Unterreiner, *Limiting Free Speech*
• **Due: Reading Quiz #16 (Posted to Blackboard on 11/26)**

For Fri:

In-Class Assignment: No New Reading Due
• **Lecture Quiz #12 (Due 12/3 by 12 PM – Posted to Blackboard on 11/30)**

Week 15: (12/3 – 12/7)

Topic: Drugs – Should they be legal?

For Mon:

Reading: Douglas N. Husak, Three Points about Drug Decriminalization

• **Due: Reading Quiz #17 (Posted to Blackboard on 11/30)**

• **Provided on Monday 12/3: Study Guide for Final Examination**

For Wed:

Reading: George Sher, On the Decriminalization of Drugs

• **Due Wed: Reading Quiz #18 (Posted to Blackboard on 12/3)**

For Fri:

Final Exam Guide Review

• **Lecture Quiz #13 (Due 12/10 by 12 PM - Posted to Blackboard on 12/7)**

• **Due: Writing Assignment #3 (Monday, 12/7)**

Week 16: (12/10 – 12/14)

Finals Week

Final exam date: Wednesday, December 12th 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Breakdown of General Assignment Due Dates (See Next Page)

Quizzes Breakdown:

Reading Quizzes Due Dates:

RQ1 – Wednesday 9/5
RQ2 – Monday, 9/10
RQ3 – Monday, 9/17
RQ4 – Monday, 9/19
RQ5 – Monday, 9/24
RQ6 – Monday, 10/1
RQ7 – Wednesday, 10/3
RQ8 – Monday, 10/8
RQ9 – Monday, 10/22
RQ10 – Monday, 10/31
RQ11 – Monday, 11/5
RQ12 – Friday, 11/9
RQ13 – Wednesday, 11/14
RQ14 – Monday, 11/19
RQ15 – Monday, 11/26 (Taken In-Class)
RQ16 – Wednesday, 11/28
RQ17 – Monday, 12/3
RQ18 – Wednesday, 12/5

Lecture Quizzes Due Dates:

LQ1- Monday, 9/10
LQ2- Monday, 9/17
LQ3- Monday, 9/24
LQ4- Monday, 10/1
LQ5- Monday, 10/8
LQ6- Monday, 10/15
LQ7- Monday, 10/29
LQ8- Monday, 11/5
LQ9- Monday, 11/14
LQ10- Monday, 11/19
LQ11- Monday, 11/26
LQ12 – Monday, 12/3
LQ13 – Monday 12/10

Writing Assignments:

Essay #1 Prompt: **Friday, Sept. 21st**

Essay # 2 Prompt: **Friday, October 26th**

Essay #3 Prompt: **Friday, November 23rd**

Due: **Monday, October 8th**

Due: **Monday, November 12th**

Due: **Friday, December 7th**

Examinations:

Midterm Examination: *Wednesday, October 17th (Time TBA)*

Final Examination: **Wednesday, December 12th (8:00 AM – 10:00 AM)**

Welcome to Philosophy 4!