

Introduction to Ethics: Theory and Application

Course Outcome Summary

Course Information

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| Organization | WTCS - Wisconsin Technical College System |
| Developers | Frederick Stadler Patricia G. Ebert Rex Peterson Roger Vanden Busch Kerm Morgan William Lindroth |
| Development Date | 2/16/2004 |
| Course Number | 10-809-166 |
| Instructional Level | Associate Degree |
| Potential Hours of Instruction | 54 |
| Total Credits | 3 |

Description

This course provides a basic understanding of the theoretical foundations of ethical thought. Diverse ethical perspectives will be used to analyze and compare relevant issues. Students will critically evaluate individual, social and/or professional standards of behavior, and apply a systematic decision-making process to these situations.

Types of Instruction

| Instruction Type | Contact Hours | Credits |
|------------------------|---------------|---------|
| Classroom Presentation | 54 | 3 |

Textbooks

James Rachels. *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*. **Edition:** 4th.

Donald C. Abel. *Philosophy - Customized anthology Readings from Classical/ Contemporary Authors on Ethical Theories*. McGraw Hill. 2003.

James Rachels. *The Right Thing to Do*. **Edition:** 3rd.

Jeffrey Olen and Vincent Barry. *Applying Ethics - A Text with Readings*. Wadsworth. 2002. **Edition:** 7th. **ISBN:** 0-534-56153-5.

Prerequisites

None

Competencies

1. Define ethical theories

You will demonstrate your competence:

1.a. written test, and/or written paper

Your performance will be successful when:

1.a. The following theories are defined: cultural relativism, subjectivism, psychological egoism, ethical egoism, religion, utilitarianism, Kantian theories, social contract theories, feminist ethics and eastern world views.

2. Critique ethical theories

You will demonstrate your competence:

2.a. written test, and/or written paper, and/or student presentations

Your performance will be successful when:

- 2.a. strengths and weaknesses of each ethical theory are described
- 2.b. use appropriate terminology

3. Apply ethical principles**You will demonstrate your competence:**

- 3.a. written test, and/or written paper in which historical discrimination/ situations are analyzed
- 3.b. debate of various points of view

Your performance will be successful when:

- 3.a. suggested approaches to moral/ethical debate are presented
- 3.b. ethical principles are explained in relation to real life situations (case studies)
- 3.c. point-counterpoint approaches are applied to ethical dilemmas

4. Examine values consistent with a moral life**You will demonstrate your competence:**

4.a. written paper or essay

Your performance will be successful when:

- 4.a. personal values are identified
- 4.b. personal values are compared with the qualities of a moral life as espoused by theorists (eg - integrity, honesty, etc.)
- 4.c. similarities and dissimilarities are described
- 4.d. similarities/dissimilarities to theorists' qualities are reflected on

5. Recognize personal prejudice**You will demonstrate your competence:**

- 5.a. attitude measures- self assessment
- 5.b. in the analysis of case studies
- 5.c. role-playing presentation

Your performance will be successful when:

- 5.a. prejudice is defined
- 5.b. limiting nature of prejudice is recognized
- 5.c. one's own prejudice is identified
- 5.d. growth/ change in one's prejudice is shown

6. Support one's own ethical stance**You will demonstrate your competence:**

6.a. written essay focusing on a particular moral dilemma or issue

Your performance will be successful when:

- 6.a. presuppositions of one's own values are stated
- 6.b. a rational basis for connecting to ethical theories/ principles is provided
- 6.c. appropriate terms are used

7. Tolerate diverse points of views**You will demonstrate your competence:**

- 7.a. in a debate on ethical approaches, with point/counterpoint
- 7.b. role-playing
- 7.c. self-assessment

Your performance will be successful when:

- 7.a. various points of view of ethical issues are described
- 7.b. various points of view, based on ethical principles, are evaluated

8. Evaluate ethical decision-making processes

You will demonstrate your competence:

- 8.a. student role-playing (scenarios of different process)
- 8.b. written essay applying decision making processes

Your performance will be successful when:

- 8.a. the various ethical decision-making process are described (eg - debating viewpoints, point-counterpoint, critique)
- 8.b. recognize presuppositions inherent in the point of view being analyzed
- 8.c. the usefulness of the various decision making process
- 8.d. the selected process is utilized in a variety of formats (case studies, role playing)
- 8.e. a variety of ethical decision making processes are applied