



## Walters State Community College Course Syllabus

### Course Information

**Course Number and Name:** PHIL 1040 Introduction to Ethics

**Section ID:** 81323.202380

**Semester and Year:** Fall 2023

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Start Date:** August 21, 2023

**End Date:** December 08, 2023

**Course Format:** CON - Conventional Methodology

**Catalog Course Description:** < br> An explanation of moral thought such as the ethical theories of Aristotle, Kant and Mill. Also includes discussion of contemporary moral problems such as reproductive technologies, euthanasia, capital punishment, war, animals, and the environment. **F, S**

**General Education Course Designation:** General Education Course

**Meeting Details:** TR; 09:35AM - 11:00AM; MBSS 223

**Course Drop Deadline:** October 27, 2023

### Instructor Information

**Name:** Paul Turner

**Office Location:** CCEN 215-C

**Office Hours:** M (virtual): 4p - 9p; W: 9a - 4p; TR: 2:10p - 3:40p

**Office Phone:** 423-585-6948

**Email:** Roger.Turner@ws.edu

**Supervisor Name:** Dr. Robert Pratt

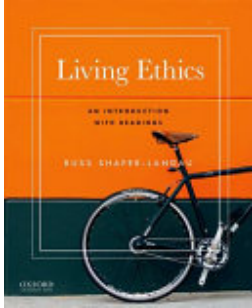
**Supervisor Phone:** 423-585-6952

### Required Textbook(s) and Materials

**Living Ethics**

**ISBN:** 9780190272197

**Authors:** Russ Shafer-Landau



**Publisher:** Oxford University Press, USA

**Publication Date:** 2018-01-01

## Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- 1. Be able to explain and critique the ethical theories of the world's most influential philosophers.
- 2. Be able to apply various ethical theories to contemporary moral problems.
- 3. Be able to assess philosophical arguments with the tools of logic.
- 4. Demonstrate competent writing skills in an argumentative and philosophical essay.
- 5. Demonstrate competent oral communication skills in a class presentation.
- 6. Be able to describe how theories of morality apply to the self.

## Instructional Approach and Methods

The course is lecture based in its instruction.

Evaluation happens informally through class discussion, and formally through in-class reading quizzes, two exams, and two in-class argument analysis papers.

## Assessment, Evaluation and Testing Procedures

There are fifteen (15) reading quizzes

There are two exams

There are three in-class argument analysis papers

## Grading Scale

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

## Assignments

Argument Analysis Paper (2 @ 100 points) = 200

Exam on metaethics = 100

Exam on ethical theories (1 @ 100 points) = 100

Reading Quizzes (15 @ 5) = 75

Total = 475 points

## Class Participation

Class attendance is mandatory, and class participation is expected.

## Course and Class Policies/Procedures

- Attendance is required. You are allowed to miss four (4) class periods without penalty. After the fourth absence, I will deduct 2% from your overall grade for each absence. If you have an extended illness or some other documentable crisis that will require you to miss more than four classes, please contact me for accommodations.
- Intentional disrespect (for your classmates or for your instructor) will not be tolerated.
- No electronic devices
- If you wish to discuss the grade you receive for *any* particular assignment you'll need to stop by during office hours. This isn't because I want to be difficult; it's because I'm much better in person, where we can talk, than I am over email or whatever else. And please, don't come up to me before or

after class to discuss a grade (unless your coming up is just a matter of setting up an appointment to meet). I likely won't remember what your grade was or why you got it on whatever assignment it is you want to discuss.

- You must be reachable via your eLearn email. I cannot stress this enough: you will be notified of any changes that occur to the course over the semester (if there are any changes, that is) via email. Moreover, if I need to contact you, personally, for any reason at all, this will be the method through which I contact you. Do not neglect to check your eLearn email often! **If a student wishes to email the instructor, s/he can expect a reply within 48 hours *except on weekends and holidays*.**

## Additional Course Requirements/Details/Information

### I. Assignments and Assessment

Argument Analysis Paper (2 @ 100 points each) = 200

Exam on metaethics = 100

Exam on ethical theories = 100

Reading Quizzes (15 @ 5) = 75

Total = 475 points

### Argument Analysis Papers:

Students will write three argumen-analysist papers. These will happen in class, and they will be hand-written.

During the course of the semester, we will read various philosophical essays dealing with contemporary moral problems (e.g., abortion, the death penalty, racism, etc.). These can be found in Part 2 (i.e. chapters 12 and following) of the text *Living Ethics*. Twice during the semester, each student will pick \*one\* argument to analyze in a short paper (just two pages, **single-spaced**, i.e., front and back, of a **college-ruled** loose-leaf paper). Each essay will write out the argument that's being evaluated in standard form (i.e., in number premise-by-premise format). Then the student will proceed to say why the argument is (or isn't) valid, and why the argument is (or isn't) sound. These reasons will be from the student's perspective, and require a rational justification for each. As we will see: just because a person *believes* he/she is right, it doesn't follow that he/she is right. Rather, each

person has to *argue* for his/her point in such a way as to try and convince his/her interlocutor that he/she is right.

Dates of these assignments are TBD; but, they will happen during a normal class period.

No make-ups unless there's a really good excuse.

The paper must be an argument analysis. Do not plagiarize or copy other sources without giving credit to the original author. Intentional and unintentional cases of plagiarism are treated the same: **a zero on the paper and a possible F in the class.**

Papers will be graded as follows:

Quality of writing = 30%

- Grammar and style are polished = 27 – 30
- Grammar and style are good = 24 – 26.5
- Grammar and style are acceptable, but some problems may make reading difficult = 21 – 23.5
- Grammar and style obstruct reading = 1 – 20.5

Meets minimum requirements = 20%

- Paper is not an argument analysis = 0
- Paper is not on a relevant topic = 0
- Paper is less than a page long (or is not single-spaced on a college-ruled piece of paper)= 0

Quality and clarity of argument = 50%

- Excellent *summary* of author's arguments; excellent *evaluation* of author's arguments; says whether or not argument is valid/invalid, and sound/unsound; multiple and relevant connections with other course materials; logical argumentation is employed in defense of student's point of view = 45 – 50
- Good *summary* of author's arguments; good *evaluation* of author's arguments; says whether or not argument is valid/invalid, and sound/unsound; some connections with other course readings; logical argumentation is employed in defense of student's point of view = 40 – 44.5
- Acceptable *summary* of author's arguments; acceptable *evaluation* of author's arguments; says whether or not argument is valid/invalid, and sound/unsound; few connections with other course readings; logical argumentation is employed in defense of student's point of view = 35 – 39.5
- Summary may be seriously deficient; evaluation may be seriously deficient; connections to other course materials may be lacking; logical argumentation and coherence may be lacking = 1 – 34.5

## Exams

There will be one exam covering the unit on meta ethics. **(Date: TBD)**

There will be one exam covering the material on different moral theories. **(Date: TBD)**

## Reading Quizzes

15 times during the semester, students will have to complete a short (about five questions) quiz regarding the required reading for the day. Expect about one reading quiz per week.

Academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism), or failure to turn in an assignment will result in a '0'.

**There is no extra credit for the course.** You should do your best to stay current with the readings and come to class prepared for discussion; those who participate in class will be looked upon favorably when it comes to deciding borderline grades, though there is no penalty for not participating. Moreover, if you stay current on the readings and come to class prepared to discuss the readings, it's a good bet that adequate performance on the papers will follow.

**\*Another note on grading\*:** Think of this class as an exercise in impartial, dispassionate, free and rational thinking about some contentious moral issues. For the purposes of this course (though I think this is good practice just in general), I'll ask you to set aside your own likes and dislikes, your feelings, your upbringing and instead concentrate on giving *reasons* for the positions you defend and against the ones you criticize. And the reasons you offer should be, as far as is possible, ones that any sane, rational, clear-thinking person could be expected to accept, or at any rate, recognize even if they don't agree with the conclusions you draw from those reasons. I don't care (as your instructor, anyway) what you *think* about any particular issue. What matters is what kind of *reasons* you provide for what you think. So, that's what I'll evaluate: I'll evaluate *your reasons for* a particular position; I won't evaluate your position itself.

And I expect the same from you, too! I'll expect you to evaluate *the reasons* given for a particular position, whether they are from a particular philosopher you're reading, your classmates, or your instructor. But this takes it for granted that you'll do your best to respect those with which you're engaging, that you'll keep your cool and try your best to see things from the side of your opponent. This takes it for granted that you'll assume (as you ought) that each philosopher you read, each classmate you interact with, and your instructor are all rational, sane, clear-thinking people. Perhaps not all of us are; but you'll be expected to engage with us as if we are.

## II. Reading Schedule

Chapter 3A: (Metaethics) Egoism

Chapter 3B: (Metaethics) Relativism

Course Packet: (Metaethics) Moral Nihilism

Chapter 1A-D: What is Morality?

Chapter 1E: Morality and Religion

Judith Jarvis Thomson's "A Defense of Abortion," p. 185 in the text.

Don Marquis's "Why Abortion is Immoral," p. 202 in the text.

Chapter 4: (Value Theory) Hedonism

Chapter 8: (Normative Ethics) Natural Law

John Corvino's "Why Shouldn't Tommy and Jim Have Sex?" pp. 653

Maggie Gallagher's "Normal Marriage: Two Views," pp. 660

Chapter 5: (Normative Ethics) Consequentialism

Chapter 6: (Normative Ethics) Kantian Ethics

Peter de Marneffe's "Against the Legalization of Drugs," pp. 576

Michael Huemer's "America's Unjust Drug War," pp. 585

Chapter 7: (Normative Ethics) Social Contract Theory

Chapter 10: (Normative Ethics...or Value Theory?) Virtue Ethics

## Academic Honesty

Faculty expect all students to refrain from acts of academic misconduct including but not limited to:

1. Plagiarism - refers to using another person's ideas or writing without giving proper credit to the original source. Indulging in this type of conduct will subject the student to disciplinary sanctions, which may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures of Walters State Community College as outlined in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism will result in a grade of "0" for the paper/exam/presentation. Student Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions contained in the college Catalog/Student Handbook apply (see policy 04:18:02 Disciplinary Sanctions). Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the following:
  - a. Using cut/paste tool from original document with no references given.
  - b. Copying another student's work and submitting it as one's own.

- c. Forging or otherwise altering signatures.
  - d. Giving or falsifying academic documents or materials.
2. Cheating - construed as attempting to deceive or mislead which includes, but is not limited to the following:
- a. Utilizing old tests, projects, notes or written papers.
  - b. Providing unauthorized information to a fellow student about exam content.
  - c. Receiving unauthorized aid from any source with quizzes, examinations, or other assignments.
  - d. Seeking information in an unacceptable manner during/preceding an exam or other assigned work (cheat sheet, verbal exchange, looking at another person's paper or electronic device, utilizing headphones, using textbook when the test/quiz is not an open book test/quiz, using textbook test bank etc.).
  - e. Consulting with a classmate or others when taking a computerized test.
  - f. Disregarding other specific policies and procedures outlined for a particular class.
  - g. Utilizing unapproved technology/electronic equipment during testing (i.e.: mobile devices such as cell phones, smart devices, or tablets, etc.).
  - h. Using the same Internet Protocol network address (IP address) as another student for testing without approval from the course faculty.
3. The use of any generative artificial intelligence (AI) tool, such as OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Bard, or any other pre-trained language model (commonly referred to as "chatbot"), must be cited for any assignment where it has been used and may not be used unless specifically allowed by your instructor. Please see your instructor or the course policies within the syllabus if you have questions.

## Student Resources

### TUTORING SERVICES

Students in need of tutoring assistance are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Tutoring located as follows:

- Morristown Campus - Student Services Building Room L107 - (423) 585-6920
- Niswonger Campus - GRNV 226 - (423) 798-7982
- Sevierville Campus - MMH Room 210 - (865) 286-2787
- Claiborne Campus - Room 123A - (423) 851-4761

Specific tutoring assistance in mathematics and writing is available in-person and online as follows:



- Morristown Campus - English Learning Lab - HUM 120 - (423) 585-6970

[Walters State English Learning Lab \(opens in new window\)](#)  
[ws.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab](http://ws.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab)

- Morristown Campus - Mathematics Lab - MBSS 222 - (423) 585-6872

[Walters State Mathematics Learning Lab \(opens in new window\)](#)  
[ws.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab](http://ws.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab)

## **TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT**

Students who need assistance with computing and technology issues should contact the IET Helpdesk by phone at Morristown: (423) 318-2742; Niswonger: (423) 798-8186; or Sevierville: (865) 286-2789 or on-line access.

[Walters State Helpdesk \(opens in new window\)](#)  
[helpdesk.ws.edu](http://helpdesk.ws.edu)

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SUPPORT SERVICES**

Students with disabilities must register with Student Support Services each semester in the Student Services Building, Room U134 (phone (423) 585-6892) if they need any special facilities, services, or consideration.

[Walters State Student Support Services \(opens in new window\)](#)  
[ws.edu/student-services/disability/](http://ws.edu/student-services/disability/)

## **SUICIDE PREVENTION STATEMENT**

Walters State is committed to and cares about all students. Support services are available for any person at Walters State who is experiencing feelings of being overwhelmed, hopelessness, depression, thinking about dying by suicide, or is otherwise in need of assistance. For immediate help, contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by calling or texting 9-8-8 or the Trevor Lifeline at 1-866-488-7386. Veterans may also contact the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 (press 1) or Text 838255.

Walters State has a relationship in place with the following community agencies to provide services (may include crisis referral services, prevention screenings, etc.):

- Cherokee Health Systems 423-586-5032
- Frontier Health 423-467-3600

# College Policies

## STUDENTS HANDBOOK AS OFFICIAL GOVERNING DOCUMENT

This class is governed by the policies and procedures stated in the current Walters State Community College Student Handbook. All students attending Walters State Community College, regardless of the time, location, or format of the class, must abide by the rules and regulations outlined in the current Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook and the current Walters State Timetable of Classes.

[Walters State Catalog \(opens in new window\)](http://catalog.ws.edu/)  
[catalog.ws.edu/](http://catalog.ws.edu/)

[Walters State Timetable of Classes \(opens in new window\)](http://ws.edu/admissions/registration/)  
[ws.edu/admissions/registration/](http://ws.edu/admissions/registration/)

## PURPOSE, LIMITATIONS AND MODIFICATION OF SYLLABUS

This syllabus sets forth the expectations for the course content, work, and grading as well as expectations for student performance and conduct. The syllabus does not constitute a contract between the student and the instructor or the College. The information contained here is subject to change at any time. The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus at any time with written notification to the students. Though changes are possible, it is expected that the course will be conducted as described in this syllabus for the semester/year specified in the Course Information section of the syllabus. This syllabus is only valid for the semester/year specified and course requirements are not guaranteed for future semesters.

## COURSE GROUND RULES

- Students must attend the first day of on-ground class or contact the instructor prior to the first class. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class. Excessive absences may substantially lower the course grade.
- Regular class attendance is a student's obligation for any course regardless of format. (See the Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook). If a student misses class, it is his or her responsibility to contact the instructor regarding missed assignments and/or activities and to be prepared for the next class assignment.
- Students enrolled in web courses must follow the course attendance policy defined for online attendance during the first week of class and throughout the term. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class during week one OR may result in the accrual of absences which may negatively impact the student's grade in the course.
- Students who have not paid fees on time and/or are not correctly registered for this class and whose names do not appear on official class rolls generated by the Walters State student

information system (MyWS) will not be allowed to remain in class or receive credit for this course.

- Electronic devices must not disrupt the instructional process or college-sponsored academic activity. Use of electronic devices is prohibited unless use of the device is relevant to the activity and use is sanctioned by the faculty member in charge. Electronic devices that are not relevant to the activity or sanctioned by the faculty member in charge should be set so that they will not produce an audible sound during classroom instruction or other college-sponsored academic activity.

## **FINANCIAL AID**

Students receiving any type of financial aid or scholarship should contact the Financial Aid Office before making any changes to their schedule. Schedule changes without prior approval may result in loss of award for the current term and future terms.

All forms of student Financial Aid may be jeopardized or lost due to the lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress in one or multiple courses. Lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress may negatively impact a student's degree/certificate completion pace and further jeopardize Financial Aid eligibility.

## **CANCELLATION OF CLASSES AND ACADEMIC CONTINUITY**

For information related to the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather or other events, please check the Senators Emergency Text system or the college's Web site at:

[Walters State Homepage \(opens in new window\)](#)

[ws.edu/home/](http://ws.edu/home/)

[Walters State Facebook page \(opens in new window\)](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/WaltersState/>

[Walters State Twitter page \(opens in new window\)](#)

<https://twitter.com/waltersstate>

or call the college's student information line, 1-800-225-4770, option 1; the Sevier County Campus, (865) 774-5800, option 7; the Niswonger Campus (423) 798-7940, option 7; or the Claiborne County Campus, 423-636-6200, option 7. Also, please monitor local TV and radio stations for further announcements.

When an event or disaster interrupts the scheduled operations of the college and the ability to proceed with the academic course activities as planned, the college and your instructor may alter the course plan outlined in the syllabus. Should an event occur, students should refer to their course e-Learn pages and/or class materials previously delivered to receive guidance from their instructor. Students should continue to monitor the official college channels of communication listed in the above

paragraph. If you would like to sign up for the Senators Emergency Text system, please go to the following Web site:

[Senator Emergency Text System \(opens in new window\)](#)  
[ws.edu/set/](#)

Dual Enrollment students attending on a high school campus should refer to the high school inclement weather cancellations.

## **LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Brightspace (commonly known as eLearn or D2L) is the college's Learning Management System (LMS).

Brightspace is committed to accessibility by "deliver[ing] a learning experience that meets the needs of all people, regardless of age or ability." [Brightspace Accessibility Standard \(opens in new window\)](#)

Brightspace is also committed to guarding student data and privacy. [Brightspace Privacy Policy \(opens in new window\)](#)