

Course Outline

PHIL 240

Ethics

3 Semester Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

Ethics

Introduces the branch of philosophy that attempts to discover by rational methods the truth about right and wrong, good and bad, moral and immoral. Critically examines existing systems of values and their applications to life situations; helps improve students' ability to understand and make ethical choices.

Prerequisite: exemption from or successful completion of (ENGL 052 or LVE 2), (ESOL 052 or LVE 2) and (RDNG 052 or LVR 2) or (MATH 081 or LVM 1)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. explain and demonstrate how critical analysis is central to the study and application of ethics (I, VI, 6, 7);
2. identify ways in which ethics is a dynamic subject which is responsive to new discoveries in related fields (III, IV, 2);
3. identify core ideas and famous ethicists from the character ethics tradition (I, 3, 5);
4. identify core ideas and famous ethicists from the teleological ethics tradition (I, 3, 5);
5. identify core ideas and famous ethicists from the deontological ethics tradition (I, 3, 5);
6. demonstrate an awareness of the influence that cultural and social orientations have on the development and acceptance/rejection of various ethical theories (IV, V, 2, 3, 4, 5);
7. identify the different conceptions of human nature that are implied by different ethical theories (III, V, VI, 4);

8. speak and write clearly about ethical issues (II, 1);
9. logically evaluate ethical arguments (II, VI, 1, 2);
10. explain the importance and relevance of distinguishing between unsupported ethical opinions and justified ethical beliefs (I, III, IV, V, VI, 6, 7);
11. identify the value and role of electronic media in philosophical research and analysis (IV, 2).

Major Topics

1. Ethics and critical thinking
2. Character ethics
3. Teleological (consequences-oriented) ethics
4. Deontological (duty-oriented) ethics
5. Selected applications (e.g., abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, sexual morality, etc.)

Course Requirements (General Education Goal # VII)

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member and specific assignments and procedures for evaluating student performance will be described in the individual class syllabus, but will include the following:

1. A minimum of three exams or a minimum of two exams plus quizzes consisting of a combination of objective and critical thinking/analysis components.
2. Written assignment(s) that allow for analysis of primary and/or secondary sources. Sources may include books, articles, and on-line or electronic media. Written assignment(s) must total a minimum of 500 words.
3. A minimum of two collaborative learning projects or assignments either in class and/or out of class.

4. A minimum of one individual or group oral presentation.

Other Course Information

PHIL 140 fulfills three credits of the General Education requirement for Arts and Humanities.

The Community College of Baltimore County is committed to providing a high-quality learning experience that results in growth in knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to function successfully as a transfer student, in a career and as a citizen. To accomplish this goal, we maintain high academic standards and expect to accept responsibility for their individual growth by attending classes, completing all homework and other assignments, participating in class activities and preparing for class.

We take seriously our responsibility to maintain high-quality programs and will periodically ask you to participate in assessment activities to determine whether our students are attaining the knowledge, attitudes and skills appropriate to various courses and programs. The assessment activities may take many different forms such as surveys, standardized or faculty-developed tests, discussion groups or portfolio evaluations. We ask that you take these activities seriously so that we can obtain valid data to use for the continuous improvement of CCBC's courses and programs.