

Common Course Outline

PHIL 240

Ethics

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

PHIL 240 - 3 credits - Ethics emphasizes the branch of philosophy that attempts to discover by rational methods theories and concepts that aid in determining the truth about right and wrong, good and bad, morality and immorality. Ethics critically examines existing systems by examining values and their applications to everyday phenomena; Ethics improves student's ability to understand ethical reasoning and provides critical analyses as a foundation upon which to make ethical decisions and choices.

3 Credits

Prerequisites: ACLT 052 or ACLT 053 and MATH 081

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. demonstrate how critical analysis is central to the study and application of ethics;
2. identify ways in which ethics is a dynamic subject which is responsive to new discoveries in related fields;
3. identify and describe core ideas and famous ethicists from the character ethics tradition;
4. Identify core ideas and famous ethicists from the teleological ethics tradition;
5. identify core ideas and famous ethicists from the deontological ethics tradition;
6. recognize an awareness of the influence that cultural and social orientations have on the development and acceptance/rejection of various ethical theories;
7. recognize the different conceptions of human nature that are implied by different ethical theories;
8. utilize technology, correct writing and communications to find, evaluate, use and cite about ethical matters;
9. describe dominant and minor divisions within the discipline of Ethics;
10. logically evaluate and analyze ethical arguments, and
11. recognize and explain the importance and relevance of distinguishing between unsupported opinions and justified ethical claims.

Major Topics

- I. Ethics and critical thinking, local and global diversity with regard to ethics

- II. Character and virtue ethics
- III. Teleological (consequences-oriented) ethics
- IV. Deontological (duty-oriented) ethics
- V. Selected applications of ethical theory (e.g., social, political, moral phenomena)
- VI. Social/political philosophy in the contemporary, local and global society
- VII. Research and academic writing on an ethical topic

Course Requirements

Grading will include a minimum of six assessments and will be determined by the individual faculty member who will administer specific assignments and procedures for evaluating student performance. These will be described in the course syllabus and will include the following:

Multiple assignments will infuse CCBC General Education Program objectives, and at least one assignment worth at least 10% of the total course grade must allow students to demonstrate at least 5 of the 7 following General Education Program outcomes:

1. written/oral communication;
2. critical analysis and reasoning;
3. technological competence;
4. information literacy;
5. scientific and quantitative or logical reasoning;
6. local and global diversity; and
7. personal and professional ethics.

Grading will include a minimum of six assessments. These may reflect any combination of the following:

1. a minimum of three exams or a minimum of two exams plus two quizzes consisting of a combination of objective and critical thinking/analysis components.
2. a minimum of two written assignments 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 1000 words.
3. the completion of a research project exploring a philosopher, philosophical theory, or philosophical topic relative to the course topic.

Students are required to utilize appropriate academic resources. Students are required to refrain from plagiarism, using another's work, and comply with the CCBC Student Code of Ethics in managing classroom interactions with faculty and co-learners.

Other Course Information

This course is an approved General Education course in the Arts and Humanities category. Please refer to the current CCBC Catalog for General Education course criteria and outcomes.

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