

Social Ethics

PHILOSOPHY 1120-001, ONLINE

Salt Lake Community College, Fall 2024

COURSE DESCRIPTION: There is a difference between what we do and what we ought to do. This is a course in what we ought to do and the reasons we use to explain and justify this. Exploring the nature of these reasons is part of a branch of philosophy called ethics. In this class, we will analyze the difference between right and wrong actions and then apply that analysis to various real world issues like the death penalty, doctor-assisted suicide, and animal rights.

CLASS MEETINGS: As an “asynchronous” course, there is no required class meeting time. Recordings of the lectures will be provided for you on the Canvas course homepage. Failing to watch the lectures will seriously hinder your ability to do well in this course.

A warning for you: Online classes without assigned meeting times can sometimes be very challenging for students. You must be disciplined and organized. Commit to doing the readings and to watching and taking notes on every recorded lecture on a weekly basis.

TEXTBOOKS: There is no textbook for this course, but you will need to download and view articles that will be linked for you on Canvas. Make sure you have access to the appropriate technology.

GRADING: Your grade will reflect your completion of five general assignments.

1) **PRACTICE QUIZZES** – There will be six short online practice quizzes that you must take in the first half of the semester. They are “open book,” and you are allowed multiple attempts. These quizzes will count for 10% of your total final grade. See the “Schedule of Readings & Assignments” for the deadlines on each quiz.

2) **MID-SEMESTER EXAM** – There will be a timed mid-semester exam that you must take on Canvas. The exam will cover moral theory, and it is “open book.” It will count for 20% of your total final grade. See the “Schedule of Readings & Assignments” for the deadline.

3) **DISCUSSION FORUMS** – There will be three online forums where you will be asked to post an argument backing up your position on that week’s topic. You will need to do this no later than Wednesday at midnight. Then, by Saturday at midnight, you will need to post at least two philosophical responses to the arguments posted by your fellow students. The forums as a whole will count for 25% of your total final grade. See the “Schedule of Readings & Assignments” for the deadlines on each forum.

4) **ARGUMENT ASSESSMENTS** – There will be three homework assignments where you will be asked to explain the arguments in that week’s reading assignments and then assess whether or not you think they are good arguments. Specific directions will be given on Canvas. These argument assessments as a whole will count for 30% of your total final grade. See the “Schedule of Readings & Assignments” for the deadlines on each one.

5) **ESSAY** – At the end of the semester, you will need to write and submit on Canvas an argumentative essay on a topic from a list that will be provided to you. This essay will be worth 15% of your total final grade, and specific instructions will be given on Canvas. See the “Schedule of Readings & Assignments” for the due date.

In figuring grades, please note that all non-whole numbers will be rounded up only at .5 or higher. All grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A =93+, A- =92-90, B+ =89-87, B =86-83, B- =82-80, C+ =79-77,
C =76-73, C- =72-70, D+ =69-67, D =66-63, D- =62-60, F =59-0

STANDARDS FOR GRADED ASSIGNMENTS:

In general, A-grades in this course imply an excellent understanding of the material; B-grades imply a good understanding of the material; and C-grades

imply some understanding of the material. Don't expect an A-grade for the course just because you tried hard. You must also demonstrate that you have mastered the material.

Good spelling and grammar are expected on all assignments submitted for a grade. A minimum of 15% will be subtracted for those assignments which have not been proofread and contain significant errors. As a review, consider viewing the short slide show on grammar and spelling which is posted on the Canvas course homepage. Also, make use of the spell-check and grammar-check options that are available as part of your computer's word processing program.

Academic Dishonesty: As specified in PPM 6-22 IV D, cheating and plagiarism violate the Student Code. Plagiarism is "the unacknowledged (uncited) use of any other person's or group's ideas or work." Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism are subject to failure of a specific assignment, or, in more serious cases, failure of the entire course.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The standard time expectation for a 3 credit hour class at the college-level is 6-9 hours of work per week. Please be aware of this.

For our discussion forum conversations, please keep in mind that the goal is never to "win" a debate. Rather, our goal is to get closer to the truth and to try to understand the issues better. Do not insult your fellow students, but also do not interpret a challenge to your beliefs as a challenge to yourself as a person. Challenging a belief is not the same as disrespecting a person.

However, if you do feel like you have been disrespected, please reach out to the instructor as soon as possible. Sometimes these things are the result of simple misunderstandings that can be cleared up with a short conversation.

General Education - This course fulfills the Humanities Distribution requirement for the General Education Program at Salt Lake Community College. It is designed not only to teach the information and skills required by the discipline, but also to develop vital workplace skills and to teach strategies and skills that

can be used for life-long learning. General Education courses teach basic skills as well as broaden a student's knowledge of a wide range of subjects. Education is much more than the acquisition of facts; it is being able to use information in meaningful ways in order to enrich one's life. While the subject of each course is important and useful, we become truly educated through making connections of such varied information with the different methods of organizing human experience that are practiced by different disciplines. Therefore, this course, when combined with other General Education courses, will enable you to develop broader perspectives and deeper understandings of your community and the world, as well as challenge previously held assumptions about the world and its inhabitants.

ePortfolio – Your General Education ePortfolio tells your SLCC learning story. Your ePortfolio enables you to introduce yourself to your professors and classmates, showcase your learning, and reflect on how your courses connect to each other, your life, goals, and community. The ePortfolio is intended to help you connect with other students and communicate with professors about how you learn, what you are taking away from your experience, and what supported your learning in their class. Professors can use your ePortfolio to get to know you before class and use your reflections and signature assignments to continuously improve their teaching.

Your General Education ePortfolio will also help you weave together the concepts you learn across all general education courses. To do this, each general education course you take at the college will ask you to demonstrate your engagement with the general education learning outcomes by designing a course-specific ePortfolio page that includes a Signature Assignment and reflection. When you finish your time at SLCC, your ePortfolio should provide a multi-media showcase of your educational experience and tell the story of your learning growth while at SLCC. You can learn more by visiting:

<https://slccbruins.sharepoint.com/sites/ePortfolio956/SitePages/Home.aspx>

This syllabus is subject to change.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS

The readings for this course will be downloadable in your weekly modules. These represent the materials that will be covered in that specific week. Please be aware that this schedule is subject to revision.

Week of Aug 20th	intro to the class, Caldwell
Week of Aug 26th	Rachels #1 Practice Quiz #1 by Sat at midnight
Week of Sept 2nd	3 Readings on Critical Thinking Practice Quiz #2 by Sat at midnight
Week of Sept 9th	How to Read a Philosophy Article
Week of Sept 16th	Fieser & Hobbes Practice Quiz #3 by Sat at midnight
Week of Sept 23rd	Mill Practice Quiz #4 by Sat at midnight
Week of Sept 30th	Westacott & Grimshaw Practice Quiz #5 by Sat at midnight
Week of Oct 7th	Annas & Rachels #2 Practice Quiz #6 by Sat at midnight
Week of Oct 14th	Your Ethics Toolkit & Moral Theory Review Midsemester Exam by Fri at midnight
Week of Oct 21st	death penalty Discussion #1 position by Wed @ midnight

Comments by Sat @ midnight

Week of Oct 28th

recreational drugs

Argument Assessment #1 by Sat @ midnight

Week of Nov 4th

poverty & famine

Discussion #2 position by Wed @ midnight

Comments by Sat @ midnight

Week of Nov 11th

doctor-assisted suicide

Argument Assessment #2 by Sat @ midnight

Week of Nov 18th

animal rights

Discussion #3 position by Wed @ midnight

Comments by Sat @ midnight

Week of Nov 25th

choose topic for final essay

read article attached to chosen topic

Week of Dec 2nd

work on essays

Argument Assessment #3 by Tues @ midnight

Submit final essay by Sat @ midnight