

# **EDU2166 Ethics II**

## **Course Syllabus**

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Ethics II is an advanced course. Students taking this course must have taken EDU1166 Ethics Intro. This course is a prerequisite for EDU4166.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will enhance your understanding of ethics relative to human behavior and will help you develop a clearer picture of important theories of moral philosophy. It will provide an expansive but fairly detailed examination of the central issues of moral philosophy. You will expand your knowledge of the questions that recur in ethical debate, such as why some people are more likely to cheat than others, how fairness is applied in various situations and how adaptability shapes our views and feelings.

You will begin to understand how to apply these moral philosophies and concepts to contemporary moral problems so that you can arrive at relatively sensible positions. You will be better able to assess whether values are generally in decline and how this affects people's behavior and decision making.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

This course will aid the student in identifying ethical issues and their application to real world problems. As you learn the status of ethical theories and claims you will discover whether there are objective truths about how we ought to live, or if ethics is ultimately a matter of subjective opinions. By the end of this course, all students should:

- Develop a general understanding of moral arguments and moral theory
- Appreciate the way in which moral theory is relevant to practical issues
- Understand how a rational argument is presented in the context of morality and the limits and scope of such arguments
- Comprehend the difference between good and bad arguments and be able to assess the arguments of others
- Develop critical thinking and writing skills and become a more creative problem solver
- Be able to recognize, confront, and think critically about various issues and social problems that we encounter daily
- Become better able to articulate ways in which the study of ethics can influence their perception of society and themselves

### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is mandatory for all students. Excellent attendance is imperative for mastery and application of the information dispensed. Whether you are sitting at a desk in a classroom or attending via Skype, your attendance is vital to your success. Late arrivals are distracting and disrespectful. Please refrain from being tardy.

Grades will be affected by absences and tardiness. Participation in class is a prerequisite. You learn from lectures, discussions and presentations.

## **CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR**

Students are expected to treat all persons with respect. We should all conduct ourselves in a courteous and responsible manner. Be considerate, you can disagree, don't insult.

Please set all your electronic devices to silent during class so as not to be a disturbance to others in the class.

## **TUTORIAL ASSISTANCE**

We maintain an open-door policy for our students. We are absolutely willing to discuss any matter that may arise during the course. If you have any questions, problems, or need help with the course material, we urge you to reach out as soon as the issue arises. If you want to contest a grade, you must do so within 48 hours and put it in writing. Please ask your student advocate for help. If you do not have a student advocate send an email to: [tutordept@usilacs.org](mailto:tutordept@usilacs.org).

## **NON-DISCRIMINATORY STATEMENT**

All students regardless of age, race, gender, religion, physical disability, class, etc., shall have equal opportunity without harassment in this course. Any problems with or questions about harassment can be discussed confidentially via email at: [hr@usilacs.org](mailto:hr@usilacs.org).

## **DRESS CODE**

For students enrolled who are attending in a classroom or via Skype, please be sure you are dressed modestly and respectfully. Please refer to [www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/business%20casual](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/business%20casual). NO short shorts or skirts. Avoid low-cut tops. We want to present ourselves in a dignified manner at all times.

## **NETIQUETTE**

- Always read through all the comments of the class before responding. This will avoid duplicating comments or questions asked.
- Avoid language that could be offensive. All profanity is strictly prohibited. Remember that using all caps when replying online signifies shouting. This would be rude and combative.
- Be sensitive to the fact that there will be fellow students from all parts of the world with many differing backgrounds and languages. Remember that slang and idioms will most likely be misconceived and/or misinterpreted. These should be avoided.
- Respect others views or opinions.
- Be thoughtful of the privacy of others. Ask permission before sharing email addresses or other personal information.
- Do not forward inappropriate material such as: virus warnings, chain letters, jokes, etc. The sharing of pornographic material is strictly prohibited.
- Use good spelling and grammar. Avoid using texting shortcuts.

- Strive to compose your comments in a positive, supportive and constructive manner at all times.

Any of these offenses will be dealt with by the school disciplinary committee.

## **ADA ACCOMMODATIONS**

All reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with disabilities. Any student attending USILACS who needs an accommodation due to a chronic challenge (i.e. blindness, deaf or hard of hearing, mobility issues, psychological, or learning disability), register with:

USILACS Registrar's Office  
1221 Brickell Ave.  
Miami, FL 33131  
1-305-330-2202  
[registrarsoffice@usilacs.org](mailto:registrarsoffice@usilacs.org)

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/CHEATING**

We encourage collaborating with others, either in person or online, to study and learn. When you complete your assignments or your exams, however, the wording has to be your own.

Plagiarism is the theft of someone else's work and ideas. You are permitted to cite or even quote someone else, however, you must properly cite them. There are two accepted ways of doing this. They are known as Modern Language Association (MLA) or American Psychological Association (APA). You can visit [www.citationmachine.net](http://www.citationmachine.net) for help in correctly citing information.

As a school that strives to maintain high moral standards, we strongly caution our students to be ethical and honest. Endeavor to be honest in conducting yourself in regard to any coursework you accomplish or exams you may take. Cheating is a dishonest practice.

## **REFERENCE MATERIALS**

The vast majority of textbooks are outdated by the time they are published. USILACS education programs are not based upon outdated printed textbooks. USILACS programs are based on the most accurate and reliable knowledge available; specifically, up-to-date vetted internet-based information.

For those who would like some reference or Internet search recommendations, we would recommend the following.

- (2015) Dan Ariely speaks on Fairness and Reciprocity. Eyal Peer.
- (2014) Ethics (Evolutionary Ethics) Stuart A Burns
- (2014) Duty based Ethics: BBC.
- (2013) Statement of Values: William Frey, Jose A Cruz-Cruz.: OpenStax CNX.
- (2011) Dan Ariely: Adaptive Responses. Pop tech.

(2009) Why we think it's OK to cheat and steal (sometimes) | Dan Ariely. TED.  
(2003) Introduction to Ethical Studies: Lee Archie, John G. Archie.

## **MINIMUM REQUIRED SUPPLIES**

All students will need all of the following:

- Computer with camera, microphone, and speakers.
- Skype installed on the computer with an active Skype account.
- Internet
- Printer
- Notebook paper
- Pens/pencils

If the student does not have a computer or internet, there will be some available for use at the school in the computer lab.

## **GRADING SYSTEM**

There will be three tests throughout the course. Each test will count for 33.3% of the final grade.

Grade	Percentage	Grade Point
A+	99	4.0
A	97	3.8
A-	94	3.7
B+	89	3.3
B	85	3.0
B-	81	2.7
C+	77	2.3
C	73	2.0
C-	69	1.7
D	66	1.0
F	59	0.0

All students must earn at least a “D” in order to pass the class.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

### *Introductory Paper-*

This paper should be at least 3 pages and will be an excellent opportunity for you to demonstrate an understanding of the course material and a way for me to see how well you are doing. The paper topics can be chosen from the list below.

- Should we stop doing science?
- Should we impose population controls?
- Should we give robots the right to kill?
- Should we make everyone “normal”?
- Human trafficking
- Ethnic adoption
- Why do people love watching victims of shark attacks on TV?
- Can you use your skills playing video games to get a job?

- Plastic surgery

*Second paper-*

This will be 4 – 6 pages. You will be expected to propose at the minimum one viable objection to your previously stated position and reply to this objection.

*Presentation(s)-*

During this course you will be required to present at least one article to the class with relevant information about the reading assignments. One article will be presented as an example that can be used as a presentation guideline. This should be at least 5 minutes long.

## **WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS**

<b>Week 1</b>	Overview of course and coursework Why be moral?
<b>Week 2</b>	The meaning of good
<b>Week 3</b>	Moral theory and arguments
<b>Week 4</b>	Stealing and cheating <i>Introductory Paper due</i>
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Video review and Exam</b>
<b>Week 6</b>	Good and bad arguments
<b>Week 7</b>	Social ethical issues
<b>Week 8</b>	How does your conscience play a part in ethics? <i>Second paper due</i>
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Video review and Exam</b>
<b>Week 10</b>	Adaptive responses
<b>Week 11</b>	Duty-based ethics
<b>Week 12</b>	Fairness and reciprocity <i>Presentation due</i>
<b>Week 13</b>	<b>Video review and Final exam</b>