



## COURSE SYLLABUS

---

### PHIL 202 – WA Contemporary Ethics

#### **Self-Paced Course – Web-Based Format Option**

Session begins on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of enrollment month and ends on the last day of the 6<sup>th</sup> month.

---

#### Instructor Information

**Instructor Name:** Jim Comer

**Email:** [comerj@uiiu.edu](mailto:comerj@uiiu.edu)

**Contact Information:** For questions, comments, or concerns please contact the Self-Paced Degree Program office:

Telephone: 563-425-5200 or 1-800-553-4150

E-mail: [selfpaced@uiiu.edu](mailto:selfpaced@uiiu.edu)

Address: Upper Iowa University, PO Box 1857, Fayette, IA 52142

---

#### **Course Description:**

This course covers some of the main threats to doctrines and ideas of moral philosophy, including nihilism, relativism, egoism, utilitarianism, the categorical imperative, virtue, and the social contract. Rather than keeping these as pure theoretical constructs, these ideas will be applied to real-life, practical situations, such as those involving ethics in the workplace, and important current debates.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Semester Credits:** 3 semester credits

**Credit Hours:** As a requirement of HLC Accreditation, all UIU courses, regardless of meeting schedule or instructional mode, follow the Federal Credit Hour Definition. As such, each credit hour earned at UIU is equivalent to a minimum of 45 hours of student engagement.

For more information on how specific instructional modes meet this requirement, please see *UIU's Policy Guidelines for Instructional Time Expectations*: [UIU Policies](#).

---

#### Course Materials

It is the student's responsibility to make sure she/he has access to all required course materials by the start of the session.

## Required Textbooks

*Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues*, 9th Edition. MacKinnon & Fiala. Cengage Learning, 2018. ISBN-13: 978-1305958678

## Recommended Resources

Various useful websites are noted throughout the course

APA Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association: 7<sup>th</sup> Edition:  
American Psychological Association (2020),  
ISBN-13: 978-1433832178  
ISBN-10: 1433832178

## Recommended Resources

UIU Writing Center

- Email: [writingcenter@uiu.edu](mailto:writingcenter@uiu.edu)
- Phone: (563) 425-5272

UIU Academic Success

- Email: [academicsuccess@uiu.edu](mailto:academicsuccess@uiu.edu)
- Phone: (563) 425-5264

## Ordering Textbooks

Purchase your textbook through the online university bookstore, [BNC Virtual](#), or by phone at (800) 325-3252.

---

## Course Objectives

- To become familiar with the basic issues of moral philosophy.
- To study important philosophers and essays in the history of moral philosophy.
- To enhance skills in interpreting and critically analyzing texts.
- To develop skills creating arguments.
- To understand the importance of ethics in daily life.

---

## General Education Assessment

Upper Iowa University General Education program is guided by the Peacock Pillars and promotes foundational learning in multiple disciplines. The four Peacock Pillars (demonstrate technological literacy, exercise critical thinking across disciplines, communicate effectively, and engage as members of a diverse community) are student learning outcomes achieved by all Upper Iowa University graduates, and represent

critical skills necessary for meaningful participation in society. The Pillars assessed by this course are indicated below:

- Demonstrate technological literacy
- Exercise critical thinking across disciplines
- Communicate effectively
- Engage as members of a diverse community

---

## Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

### Course Requirements

1. Review the **entire** course syllabus before beginning the course. Be sure you understand the course procedures and objectives. Procedures do change, so please review **ALL** requirements and policies even if this is not your first course including, but not limited to, administrative withdrawal. Your course status will be affected if policies are not followed.
2. Students who develop a regular time schedule and set goals for unit completion are most successful in completing courses within a specific timeframe.
3. The feedback you receive from the instructor of your work is **critical** to your success on subsequent lessons. These comments allow you to improve and modify the next units if necessary.
4. Assignments are submitted using uiuLearn. Please complete all assignments and modules in order.
5. If the information in your syllabus is not clear or if units are not graded within a reasonable period of time, please contact your instructor using uiuLearn's email tool, if that doesn't work contact the Self-Paced Program office. We would like the opportunity to address concerns, however, we may not know unless we hear from YOU!
6. ALWAYS keep a copy of your completed work when submitting it for grading.

---

### Assignments

Reading/viewing of assigned sections of textbook, online readings, and lectures required.

### Assessment(s)

- **Short Answer Questions:** Units 1-7 will have two discussion questions each. These are questions for reflection and critical thought over assigned course materials. They will be a minimum of 200 words each.
- **Unit Essays:** You will have an essay of at least 500 words due for each of units 1-7. The final essay (Unit 8) must be at least 750 words. Detailed instructions on

unit essay requirements can be found in your classroom content.

- **Unit Summary Reflections:** You will have a summary of at least 300 words due each unit. Unit summaries will cover the following:
  - Summary of Learning – Include major areas of content found in the lectures, reading materials, assignments, and discussion for the unit.
  - Personal Learning - Cover items that personally impacted your thinking.
  - Application to Career and Professional Goals - Include information relevant to your current and/or future career.

## Grading Criteria

### Grading

The course letter grade will be based on the following grading criteria:

**Table 1: Course Activities and Points**

Activity	Points
Student Introduction	10
Short Answers (14 at 20 points each)	280
Essays (7 at 50 points each)	350
Final essay	75
Summaries (7 at 30 points each)	210
Final summary	20
Total	945

### Grading Scale

This course will use the following scale:

**Table 2 Grading Scale**

Letter Grade	Percent	Points
A	93-100%	930 – 1000
A- (minus)	90-92%	900 – 929
B+	87-89%	870 – 899
B	83-86%	830 – 869
B- (minus)	80-82%	800 – 829
C+	77-79%	770 – 799

C	73-76%	730 – 769
C- (minus)	70-72%	700 – 729
D+	67-69%	670 – 699
D	63-66%	630 – 669
D- (minus)	60-62%	600 – 629
F	0-59%	0 – 599

## Grades and Feedback

This syllabus contains all assignments necessary for completing your self-paced course. Submit your completed assignments via uiuLearn.

If you need academic assistance with the course, please feel free to contact the Self-Paced Degree Program office.

Self-Paced Degree Program, Upper Iowa University, PO Box 1857, Fayette, IA 52142

Toll free: 800-553-4150

Fax: 563-425-5287

E-mail: [selfpaced@uiu.edu](mailto:selfpaced@uiu.edu)

## Turnitin

Turnitin is a tool for both teachers and students to ensure academic integrity by checking the originality of submitted papers to avoid issues of plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Students should be aware that Turnitin scans submitted work and compares it to ALL other sources on file.

## Extension

Students will be allowed to request an extension and receive an 'X' (Extension grade) at the end of their original six-month enrollment period if:

- A minimum of one assignment has been received for grading per guidelines **AND**
- All course units and exams are not completed and submitted **OR**
- A course withdrawal has not been initiated.

**Note:** The fee for a self-paced extension is \$99 per course. The request for an extension must be submitted no earlier than one month before the end of the course and no later than a week before the end of the course.

### Extension grade details

- When the extension is granted and an "X" grade is issued, the student will receive a four-month enrollment period to complete the course.
- Students do not have the option to withdraw from a course after the initial six-month enrollment period.

- An 'X' grade posted to the student's official record will be replaced with a final letter grade; however, the extension will remain on the official transcript as a notation.
- If the course is not completed by the end of the extension period, the instructor will assign a final grade (A-F) based on work completed in relation to the total course requirements.
- If credit is not earned by the end of the extension period, students can reenroll and repeat the entire course for credit.

**Note:** Students are not reported as enrolled during the extension period and are not eligible for student loan deferment. No more than one extension will be granted.

## Course Schedule

### Unit 1

Unit 1 Topic	What is ethics? Why be ethical? Ethical relativism
Reading	<i>Ethics</i> pages 1-13, 44-54
Assignments	Student Introduction Short Answer 1 Short Answer 2 Essay Unit summary

### Unit 2

Unit 2 Topic	Utilitarian Ethics
Reading	<i>Ethics</i> pages 93-105
Assignments	Short Answer 1 Short Answer 2 Essay Unit summary

### Unit 3

Unit 3 Topic	Duty-based Ethics
Reading	<i>Ethics</i> pages 114-125
Assignments	Short Answer 1 Short Answer 2 Essay Unit summary

### Unit 4

Unit 4 Topic	Virtue-based Ethics
Reading	<i>Ethics</i> pages 153-163
Assignments	Short Answer 1 Short Answer 2 Essay Unit summary

## Unit 5

Unit 5 Topic	Euthanasia Animal Ethics
Reading	<i>Ethics</i> pages 197-218, 457-474
Assignments	Short Answer 1 Short Answer 2 Essay Unit summary

## Unit 6

Unit 6 Topic	Sexual Ethics Ethics and Gender
Reading	<i>Ethics</i> pages 171-182, 278-293 "The Ethics of Sex" (online)
Assignments	Short Answer 1 Short Answer 2 Essay Unit summary

## Unit 7

Unit 7 Topic	Libertarian Ethics Economic Inequality The War on Drugs Violence and War
Reading	<i>Ethics</i> pages 344-364, 528-547
Assignments	Short Answer 1 Short Answer 2 Essay Unit summary

## Unit 8

Unit 8 Topic	Conclusions on Contemporary Ethics
Reading	No new reading
Assignments	Final Essay Final summary

---

## Course Expectations

### Professional Writing and Speaking Guidelines

Communications in class and online should follow the Student Conduct and Discipline, Respect for the University Environment, and Code of Student Responsibility in the [Student Handbook](#) (pg. 20 and 21). Respect the opinions of others using appropriate language and communications.

---

## University Policies

### Withdrawal (W)

If a student decides to withdraw from a course before the end of an enrollment period, the student's charges, financial aid, tuition assistance, and/or veteran benefits could be affected. All students should consult with the Business Office and Financial Aid Office to understand the financial impact of withdrawing prior to initiating the withdrawal process.

Tuition adjustments are independent from academic and financial aid deadlines. Upon receiving a request for withdrawal, using the number of lessons submitted as compared to the total due, a refund of tuition is made according to the following guideline.

On or before the first day of the enrollment period\* 100%

After the first lesson through 10% of the enrollment period 90%

After the first 10% through the first 25% of the enrollment period 50%

After the first 25% of the enrollment period 0%

\*Enrollment is measured by the number of assignments to be submitted during a six-month period of time, as determined by the University, during which semester credits are earned toward graduation. The refund/repayments shall be calculated using the percentages noted above as determined using the number of assignments completed and the number of assignments yet to be submitted.

For example, if a student submitted 2 of 17 assignments, they completed 11.76% of the class assignments. The student would be refunded 50% of the tuition cost.

For students from Wisconsin, Maryland, Georgia, Oregon, or Arizona, state laws apply. For students enrolled through the cpacredits.com program, no refund is allowed after the first two weeks.

Students who withdraw from a course prior to submitting the first assignment, or who are administratively withdrawn for non-submission of assignments, will be charged an administrative fee of \$99.

Course withdrawal may impact financial aid eligibility. A financial aid counselor is available to discuss this decision.

Upper Iowa University is required to use a pro rata schedule to determine the amount of Title IV aid the student has earned at the time of withdrawal. If financial aid funds have been released to the student because of a credit balance on the student's account at Upper Iowa University, the student may be required to repay some or all of the amount released to the student. This policy is subject to federal regulations. Contact the Financial Aid Office for details.

Withdrawing from a course in progress may result in significant student account charges. Consult with the Business Office before withdrawing. For more information on financial aid implications, go to [uiu.edu/financialaid](http://uiu.edu/financialaid).

### **Administrative Withdrawal (AW)**

A grade of AW (administrative withdrawal) is recorded for any course from which a student is administratively withdrawn. **At least one complete assignment/unit must be received and verified by the instructor within the first 60 days of the enrollment period or the student will be administratively withdrawn from the course.** Students who are administratively withdrawn for non-submission of assignments, will be charged an administrative fee of \$99. Students through the [cpacredits.com](http://cpacredits.com) partnership follow the withdrawal policy listed above. Non-Attendance (NA): Never attended grades are not applicable to the Self-Paced Degree Program.

### **Academic Accommodations**

It is the policy of Upper Iowa University to ensure equal access to educational and co-curricular activities to students with disabilities as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. A student seeking accommodations should contact the Director of Student Accessibility Services as early in the session as possible. In order to receive accommodations, students are required to disclose their disability to the Director by completing an application for services that can be found on the Student Accessibility Webpage. The Application Packet for New Students can be found here: <https://uiu.edu/experience/student-accessibility-services> In addition to the application packet, the student is required to submit supporting documentation. Submit these to the Student Accessibility Services Office either in person or by email/Fax. A brief interview, in-person, by phone or virtually, with the Director will confirm or deny the accommodations requested. The Student Accessibility Services Office will email accommodation letters to the appropriate professor, the student, and the student's advisor. Additionally, students should work cooperatively with their instructors throughout the session to make sure that their accommodations are appropriate and effective.

Contact the Director at (563) 425-5949, [accessibility@uiu.edu](mailto:accessibility@uiu.edu) or stop by the office on the 2nd floor of the Student Center, Office of Student Life, Room 229.

### **Academic Misconduct Policy**

Cheating, academic dishonesty, and plagiarism constitute a violation of the offender's own integrity, as well as the integrity of the entire University; they will not be tolerated. Violators will receive sanctions based on the level of academic misconduct.

**Cheating** includes, but is not limited to:

- The use of unauthorized books notes or other sources in the giving or securing of help in an examination or other course assignments.
- The copying of other students' work or allowing others to copy your work. The submission of work that is not your own or allowing others to submit your work as theirs.
- The submission of the same work for two or more classes without the approval of instructors involved.

**Academic dishonesty** includes, but is not limited to:

- Sharing academic materials knowing they will be used inappropriately.
- Accessing another person's work without permission.
- Providing false or incomplete information on an academic document.
- Changing student records without approval.
- Obtaining and using texts or other materials intended for instructor use only.

**Plagiarism** includes, but is not limited to:

- The presentation of another's published or unpublished work as one's own.
- Taking words or ideas of another and either copying them or paraphrasing them without proper citation of the source.
- Using charts, graphs, statistics or tables without proper citation.

### **Levels of Academic Misconduct and Sanctions**

The faculty member teaching the course has the primary responsibility for resolving allegations of academic dishonesty, though egregious violations will be resolved by the School administration, the Academic Misconduct Board, or some combination thereof. The final decision on the level of a violation rests with the Academic Misconduct Board. Options for resolving an alleged case of academic dishonesty range from dismissing the allegation with no negative sanction to being expelled from the university ([Academic Misconduct Policy: Table 1](#)). A negative sanction is defined as an action taken by the faculty member that affects the student's grade for the assignment or his or her cumulative grade for the course. Anytime academic misconduct is detected, the procedures outlined in [Academic Misconduct Policy: Table 1](#) should be followed. The incident will be maintained in a searchable database maintained by the Office of Academic Affairs.

---

### **Copyright Statement**

In recognition of the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code), Upper Iowa University reminds both faculty members and learners that a willful infringement of the law may result in disciplinary action. The University library has available materials discussing the "fair use" concept, along with criteria and guidelines for reproduction and use of copyrighted materials.

**This syllabus is subject to change.**

© 2021, Upper Iowa University