Course Syllabus

PHIL 202 - Contemporary Ethics

The session begins on the 1st day of the enrollment month and ends on the last day of the 6th month.

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Jim Comer
UIU Faculty Email: comerj@uiu.edu
Telephone Number: 225-401-8229
Availability: Call or email anytime

Course Description

Semester Credits: 3
Catalog Course Description: Contemporary Ethics confronts the pressing ethical issues and moral philosophies of modern times, including debates on nihilism, relativism, egoism, utilitarianism, the categorical imperative, virtue ethics, and social contract theory. The course applies these philosophical concepts to practical situations, such as workplace ethics and current societal debates, encouraging students to critically evaluate and apply ethical theories to real-world challenges. Meets the civics, ethics, and citizenship requirement in The Peacock Professional Experience (“general education”).

Credit Hour Policy: 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.

Ethics: Theopry and Contemporary Issues (Required)
MacKinnon, Barbara

Ed: 10th 24

Cengage Learning

ISBN: 13: 978-357-79853-9

Course Outcomes

- Students will be able to describe the basic issues of moral philosophy
- Students will be able to identify and describe important philosophers and essays in the history of moral philosophy
- Students will be able to interpret and critically analyze texts
- Students will be able to develop sound and valid arguments
- Students will be able to describe/explain the importance of ethics in daily life
- General Education Outcome: Students will be able to effectively evaluate or critique an aspect of a societal system.

General Education Assessment

Upper Iowa University is committed to ensuring that all undergraduate students participating in its general education program receive a broad education, while gaining essential professional skills across multiple disciplines. The Peacock Professional Experience provides nine learning outcomes, each of which articulates a specific skill students should gain, and are supported by knowledge provided by

the courses students choose to take within the guidelines of the program. The outcome assessed in this course is the last outcome listed under Course Outcomes.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

Course Requirements

Students will focus on the following tasks:

1. Read the assignment chapters from the text.

2. Make meaningful replies to Assignments tab.

3. Submit summaries, write the essay.

Course Policies

Just keep up so you don't have so much to do at the end of the time allotted.

Grading Criteria

Unit 1		20
1: Summary	Assignments	20
Unit 2		70
2: Essay Assignment	Assignments	50
2: Summary	Assignments	20
Unit 3		20

3: Summary	Assignments	20
Unit 4		90
4 : Summary		70
4: Topic, source for paper	Assignments	20
Unit 5		70
5: Essay Assignment	Assignments	50
5: Summary	Assignments	20
Unit 6		370
6: Summary	Assignments	20
6: Outline for Final Essay	Assignments	50
6 Final Essay	Assignments	200
6: Final	Assignments	100
Final Calculated Grade		**640**

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93 plus
A- (minus)	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B- (minus)	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C- (minus)	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D- (minus)	60-62
F	0-59

Grades and Feedback

All graded work available must be posted in the uiuLearn Gradebook by Sunday at 11:59pm (CT) one week prior to the course drop date, as well as posted by Sunday at 11:59 pm prior to the final week.

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 Policy

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 re-enroll 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

Topics: Read the first chapter ---Ethics and Ethical Reasoning ---in the book and begin to think about ethics in general and how it applies to your life.

Activities: Where do you see yourself in ethics as we begin to answer online questions. Think about the conflict you may have had at times between your inner intuition and the external world around you.

Assessments: You will be graded on postings from the Assignment tabs. There may not be an exact right or wrong in your mind but your proposed option should be based on the reading and your own personal reflection.

Unit-2

Topic: Chapter 4

Activities: Pay attention to the rather bleak theory of Thomas Hobbes. Is there a place for this theory or can we live in a state better than this. In the United States we live in a democracy. The Constitution gives choice and power into the hands of the people. Ideally, all of us count. Keep in mind that Hobbes was somewhat distrustful of the kind of democracy that we have. Think about how democracy works well, and how it might not at times.

Assessments: Post your assignments.

Unit-3

Topic: Chapter 5

Activiites: John Stuart Mill's theory of utilitarianism is fascinating. Think of how we still use this in the process of criminal law. Actually this concept is at the foundagtion of American criminal law. Key concept: the most good for the most people/number. Also consider that "the most" is not "all". May not include everyone.

Assessments: Submit assignment

Unit-4

Topic: Read Chapter 6 and Kant's theory

Activities: How do you see your "duty"---as a police officer or health care worker, a solidier, or just an ordinary citizen? Sometimes our "duty" is just going through the mundane (but important) tasks of the day. Kant would say just do them whether you are in the mood or not. While this may seem boring, it may contribute a lot to your success in life.Another aspect of this ethic is doing tasks before you have to do them. A CEO of a large company said in an interview that this teaching in his early schooling has contributed to his business success.

Assessments: Write the assignment.

Unit-5

Topic: Read chapter 7 and think about natural law.

Activities: Natural law can be difficult to define. How do you see it playing out in your life? Do all see it the same way?

Assessments: Post assignment.

Unit-6

Topic: Chapter 8 and Virtue Ethics

Activities 1: Let's discuss the results of virtue ethics----how it can make one's life better, according to Aristotle. Aristotle believed in keeping ones's mental and in emotional balance in the middle. Sometimes we might be praised; at other times criticized. Aristotle would say just keep to the middle ground of not getting depressed over opinions of others, nor getting too elated when we are praised.

Activities 2: Think about graduating and beyond---as it relates to ethics.

Maybe you have just finished in Criminal Justice. You are a newly commissioned police officer. Your first assignment is monitoring traffic at a school speed zone. Posted is the sign: 20 miles per hour. You record the motorist at 60 mph. He was running a little late for work, he said. However, you live in a state with a "strict liability law" regarding speeding in a school zone. That means the "intent" of the driver is not an issue. **Kant** would say do your duty. **Mills** would say do the most good for the most number (the school children). Can you have a good, clear disposition each day knowing you have done the right thing with all the

excuses or reasons you hear. Or, said another way, can your ethics guide your decisions?

Activities 3: Can you think of other instances like this---perhaps in the fields of health care, the military, or counseling. Let's brainstoirm these.

Assessments: Submit the final work under Assignments.

Course Expectations

Email

Upper Iowa University employees and students are issued a UIU email account (doej@uiu.edu). University email communications will only be sent to UIU email address. Faculty and staff are not obligated to respond to students using non-UIU email accounts.

Technology Requirements

Use of a computer which allows you to post assignments, discussions, and do online participation.

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. 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.

Students who have registered for this course through our partnership are required to follow the withdrawal policy outlined on the partnership website. Please refer to the partnership site for official withdrawal procedures and deadlines.

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/financial aid.

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. 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. 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.

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

Emergency Directives: (Fire, Natural Disaster, Threat on campus, etc.)

In accordance with Upper Iowa University's emergency management plan, any student that requires assistance in the event of an emergency (Fire, natural disaster, threat on campus) is responsible for notifying their instructor of the need for assistance. (Evacuation, and/or indoor safety protocols) This information will be held confidential and only needed in the unlikely event that there is an emergency.