

# PHIL 8: ETHICS

## Foothill College Course Outline of Record

Heading	Value
Units:	5
Hours:	5 lecture per week (60 total per quarter)
Degree & Credit Status:	Degree-Applicable Credit Course
Foothill GE:	Non-GE
Transferable:	CSU/UC
Grade Type:	Letter Grade (Request for Pass/No Pass)
Repeatability:	Not Repeatable

## Student Learning Outcomes

- Identify and explain major ethical theories.
- Analyze and evaluate ethical arguments regarding contemporary social issues.

## Description

Analysis and application of competing conceptions of the good. Course focuses on ethical theory (utilitarianism, duty-oriented ethics, virtue ethics, egoism, relativism, etc.) and various topics in applied ethics.

## Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

- demonstrate understanding and evaluate a variety of ethical theories.
- analyze the underlying logical principles of each theory.
- demonstrate understanding of the relationship between ethics and other branches of philosophy. Particularly, the implications of metaphysical concepts on ethics as well as the implications of ethics upon political theory.
- apply ethical principles to contemporary social, political, economic, cultural and scientific concerns.
- evaluate arguments for and against positions in applied ethics.

## Course Content

- Ethical theory.
  - Consequentialist and non-consequentialist theory.
    - Egoism.
    - Utilitarian theories of Bentham and Mill.
    - Kantian deontological theory.
    - Aristotelian virtue theory.
    - Feminist theory.
  - Relativism and its complications.
- Issues in applied ethics.
  - Abortion.
  - Euthanasia.
  - World hunger.
  - Animal rights.
  - Environmental ethics.
  - Pornography.
  - Same-sex rights (e.g., gay marriage).
  - Death penalty.
  - Affirmative action.
  - Corporate responsibility.
    - International labor practices.

- Downsizing.
- Manipulative advertising.

## Lab Content

Not applicable.

## Special Facilities and/or Equipment

When taught as an online distance learning section, students and faculty need ongoing and continuous Internet and Email access.

## Method(s) of Evaluation

- Quizzes.
- Argumentative essays.
- Essay and short answer exams.
- Class discussion.

## Method(s) of Instruction

Lecture, Discussion, Cooperative learning exercises, Lecture and discussion

## Representative Text(s) and Other Materials

Thiroux, Jacques. *Ethics in Theory and Practice*. 11th ed. NJ: Prentice-Hall, 2015.

Shaw, William H. *Social and Personal Ethics*. 8th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing, 2014.

Boss, Judith. *Analyzing Moral Issues*. 6th ed. NY: McGraw-Hill, 2013.

## Types and/or Examples of Required Reading, Writing, and Outside of Class Assignments

- Primary and secondary literature on ethical theory and applied ethics.
- Written analysis of readings and response to study questions.
- Application of ethical theory to current events of ethical concern.
- Argumentative essays regarding major ethical problems.

## Discipline(s)

Philosophy