

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

PHILOSOPHY 140 – PROBLEMS IN ETHICS

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

Study of values as they affect the individual and society. Conduct as expressed by ethical standards and natural law, problems and theories of beauty and value.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

Axiological questions and issues are confronted in two contexts:

- 1) The classical arguments of philosophical tradition are read and critically reflected.
- 2) Ordinary language is employed in the analysis of some of the perennially puzzling questions of value which are relevant to contemporary moral issues.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Identify and describe major ethical systems in the history of philosophy such as virtue ethics, utilitarianism, deontology, egoism, nihilism, relativism, objectivism, care ethics, etc.
- 2) Compare and contrast various ethical systems regarding their strengths and weaknesses.
- 3) Apply various ethical principles studied in class to current moral issues.
- 4) Describe the relation between various ethical systems and the underlying views of human nature they presuppose.
- 5) Begin to formulate their own ethical principles on the basis of theories discussed in class.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Exams and quizzes that measure students' ability to identify the main features of various ethical systems in the history of philosophy and apply them to hypothetical ethical dilemmas.
- 2) Research papers that measure students' ability to evaluate various ethical systems as regards to their coherence, practicality, and/or legitimacy.
- 3) Critical reading journals that require students to begin to formulate their own ethical principles on the basis of philosophical reasoning.

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom

Method of Instruction

Lecture and discussion

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Writing assignments, including essays
- 2) Reading assignments

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative example): MacKinnon, Barbara. *Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues*. 9th edition. Wadsworth, 2017.
- 2) Cahn, Steven M., and Peter Markie. *Ethics: History, Theory and Contemporary Issues*. Oxford University Press, 7th edition, 2019.
- 3) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify and describe major ethical systems in the history of philosophy such as virtue ethics, utilitarianism, deontology, egoism, nihilism, relativism, objectivism, care ethics, etc.
- 2) Compare and contrast various ethical systems regarding their strengths and weaknesses.
- 3) Apply various ethical principles studied in class to current moral issues.