PHI208

ETHICS AND MORAL REASONING

Course Guide

This course examines and evaluates theories and arguments concerning ethics and moral reasoning from a philosophical perspective. By engaging with historical and contemporary sources, students will analyze theories about the meaning, nature, and justification of ethical concepts; determine and assess how different forms of moral reasoning apply to contemporary moral issues; become more reflective and informed about their own moral beliefs; and develop their capacity for critical practical reasoning.

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COURSE AT A GLANCE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines and evaluates theories and arguments concerning ethics and moral reasoning from a philosophical perspective. By engaging with historical and contemporary sources, students will analyze theories about the meaning, nature, and justification of ethical concepts; determine and assess how different forms of moral reasoning apply to contemporary moral issues; become more reflective and informed about their own moral beliefs; and develop their capacity for critical practical reasoning.

COURSE DESIGN

In this course, students will be introduced to ethics as a philosophical discipline, different ethical theories, and practical ethical issues. As the course begins, students will learn about the key features of philosophical ethics and moral reasoning and the importance of studying them, as well as the challenges of egoism and relativism. Students will choose a major contemporary moral question and, as the course progresses, apply the ethical theories to defend a position on that question. During Weeks 2, 3, and 4 respectively, students will examine the form, applications, strengths, and weaknesses of utilitarianism, deontology, and virtue ethics. While learning about the ethical theories, students will draw on these theories in discussing various current events and/or moral dilemmas. Throughout the course, students will consider the background and arguments on various sides of a major contemporary moral problem in the course of writing about that problem.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Define the nature and scope of morality and ethics.
2. Differentiate among traditional ethical theories.
3. Interpret philosophical thought through critical thinking.
4. Apply the concepts of ethical and moral reasoning to contemporary issues.
5. Determine their own ethical perspectives through personal reflection.

COURSE MATERIALS

REQUIRED TEXT

Thames, B. (2018). *How should one live? An introduction to ethics and moral reasoning* (3rd ed.). Retrieved from

https://content.ashford.edu

- This text is a Constellation™ course digital materials (CDM) title.

REQUIRED RESOURCES

Book

Kant, I. (2008). Groundwork for the metaphysic of morals. In J. Bennett (Ed. & Trans.), *Early Modern Philosophy*.

Retrieved from http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/kant1785.pdf (Original work published 1785)

Article

Midgley, M. (1981). Trying out one's new sword. Retrieved from http://www.ghandchi.com/IONA/newsword.pdf

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Book

Mill, J. S. (2008). Utilitarianism. In J. Bennett (Ed. & Rev.), *Early Modern Philosophy*. Retrieved from

http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/mill1863.pdf (Original work published 1863)

Articles

Hursthouse, R., & Pettigrove, G. (2016, December 8). Virtue ethics. Retrieved from

http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-virtue/

Mill, J. S. (1873). Autobiography. Retrieved from http://www.utilitarianism.com/millauto/

O'Neill, O. (n.d.). A simplified account of Kant's ethics. Retrieved from

http://users.manchester.edu/Facstaff/SSNaragon/Online/texts/201/O'Neill,%20Kant.pdf

Sayre-McCord, G. (2000). Kant's *Grounding for the metaphysics of morals*: A very brief selective summary of sections I

and II. Retrieved from http://www.unc.edu/~gsmunc/phil22/Kantsum.pdf

Multimedia

Annas, J. (2014, March 26). *Episode 57: Julia Annas discusses virtue ethics* (M. Teichman, Interviewer, & D.

Jagannathan, Interviewer) [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from

https://lucian.uchicago.edu/blogs/elucidations/2014/03/26/episode-57-julia-annas-discusses-virtue-ethics/

Garcia, P. (Director), & Kononovich, L. (Producer). (2004). Ethics: What is right? [Series episode]. In C. Scherer

(Executive producer), *Great ideas of philosophy I*. Retrieved from

https://fod.infobase.com/OnDemandEmbed.aspx?token=32706&wID=100753&plt=FOD&loid=0&w=640&h=48

0&fWidth=660&fHeight=530

Velleman, J. D. [James D Velleman]. (2014, May 14). *Lectures on Kant's Groundwork for the metaphysics of morals*

[YouTube playlist]. Retrieved from

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLoX4xxkbESk3kxLrCXEc0_nen7K8olheE

Web Pages

Lee, R. (n.d.). Immanuel Kant: Links. Retrieved from http://comp.uark.edu/~rlee/semiau96/kantlink.html

Open Culture. (n.d.). Free online philosophy courses. Retrieved from

http://www.openculture.com/philosophy_free_courses

The Philosophy Pages. (n.d.). Immanuel Kant. Retrieved from http://philosophypages.com/ph/kant.htm

The stone. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.nytimes.com/column/the-stone

Websites

AskPhilosophers. (http://www.askphilosophers.org/)

Ethics Matters. (http://ethicsmatterstvseries.com/)

Hi-Phi Nation. (https://hiphination.org/)

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy. (http://www.iep.utm.edu/)

1000-Word Philosophy. (https://1000wordphilosophy.wordpress.com/)

Philosophical Installations. (https://philinstall.uoregon.edu/)

Philosophy Bites. (http://philosophybites.com/)

Philosophy Talk. (https://www.philosophytalk.org/)

PhilPapers. (https://philpapers.org/)

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. (https://plato.stanford.edu/)

Utilitarianism Resources. (http://www.utilitarianism.com/)

Wi-Phi. (http://www.wi-phi.com/)

COURSE GRADING

Multiple measures of assessment are used in the course, allowing students opportunities to demonstrate their learning in more than one way and giving consideration to individual learning styles. Course components that will be assessed are noted below.

DISCUSSIONS

Each week students will participate in online discussions with classmates which are related to the week's readings. These discussions replace the interactive dialogue that occurs in the traditional classroom setting. Each week, students' initial discussion posts are due by 11:59 p.m. (in the time zone in which each student resides) on Day 3 (Thursday). Students will have until 11:59 p.m. on Day 7 (the following Monday) to make the required minimum number of response posts to classmates. **Discussions represent 30.5% of the overall course grade.**

QUIZZES

In Weeks 1 through 4, students will demonstrate and reinforce their understanding of the week's content by taking open-book quizzes. Students have 4 hours to complete a quiz once they begin. The quiz must be completed in one sitting, by Day 6 of the week in which it is due. You have up to three attempts to complete this quiz, and the system will record the highest score. The questions are multiple choice and true/false. Each quiz is worth 5 percent. **Quizzes represent 20% of the overall course grade.**

ASSIGNMENTS

There are written assignments due in Weeks 1 and 3 of this course. These assignments must reflect college-level writing. **Assignments represent 24% of the overall course grade.**

END OF COURSE SURVEY

In Week 5, students will have the opportunity to complete the End of Course Survey, which is a short evaluation tool that allows them to express their opinion of the course design and instructional delivery. This is a chance to provide the university and program with valuable feedback that will allow us to evaluate the effectiveness of both the course and the instructor. Students' opinions are a valuable component of the university's continuous improvement plan as the results of these surveys are reviewed by instructors and course designers to improve course development and instructional practices.

Since evaluating the quality of students' educational experience can be an important learning tool, students will receive 0.5 points for completing this survey. To complete the survey, students must watch for an email from surveys@ashford.edu entitled "Ashford University End of Course Survey," then simply click on the link within the email line that reads "Please follow this link to complete the End of Course Survey here" no later than the last day of the course. After students have completed the End of Course Survey, they must complete the one question quiz to receive the points. If for any reason they wish not to complete the survey, students may do so and still receive the 0.5 points by completing the one question quiz. **The End of Course Survey represents 0.5% of the overall course grade.**

FINAL EXAM

During the final week, students will complete a 50-question true/false and multiple-choice exam on concepts covered in this course. **The Final Exam represents 10% of the overall course grade.**

FINAL PAPER

The final assignment for this course is a Final Paper. The purpose of the Final Paper is for students to culminate the learning achieved in the course by analyzing and defending a position on an ethical question using the principles of ethical reasoning studied in the course. **The Final Paper represents 15% of the overall course grade.**

GRADING PERCENT BREAKDOWN

Activity	Grading Percent
Discussions	30.5

Quizzes	20
Assignments	24
End of Course Survey	.5
Final Exam	10
Final Paper	15
Total	**100**

WEEK 1

INTRODUCTION AND SKEPTICISM ABOUT ETHICS

To be completed during the first week of class.

Overview

Activity	Due Date	Format	Grading Percent
Post Your Introduction	Day 1 (1st post)	Discussion	1.5
Week 1 Discussion	Day 3 (1st post)	Discussion	4
Week 1 Quiz	Day 6	Quiz	5
Ethical Question	Day 7	Assignment	12

Weekly Learning Outcomes

This week students will

1. Identify the subject matter and basic form of ethical reasoning.
2. Explain the notions of moral relativism and egoism and the features of morality they challenge.
3. Discuss the implications, merits, and drawbacks of moral relativism and egoism.
4. Formulate reasons in support of and opposed to a position on an ethical question.

Introduction

We all have a basic understanding of ethics and moral reasoning that comes from upbringing, religion, culture, and personal reflection, but this week you will consider why it is important to study ethics at a more systematic philosophical level and learn the basic distinctions and concepts involved. You will also consider some of the primary reasons why one might raise skeptical doubts that ethics is objective or unconditional, as it is characteristically presumed to be, by examining the challenges of relativism and egoism. You will describe relativism and egoism, identify the reasons for their appeal, and analyze some of the main weaknesses of those positions.

Required Resources

Text

Thames, B. (2018). *How should one live? An introduction to ethics and moral reasoning* (3rd ed.). Retrieved from

https://content.ashford.edu

- Chapter 1: Introduction
    - o 1.1: Socrates's Question
    - o 1.2: Ethical Reasoning
    - o 1.3: The Landscape of Moral Philosophy
- Chapter 2: Skepticism About Ethics
    - o 2.1: Introduction to Skepticism
    - o 2.2: The Relativist Challenge
    - o 2.3: The Egoist Challenge
    - o Primary Sources: Plato's *The Ring of Gyges*

Article

Midgley, M. (1981). [Trying out one's new sword](http://www.ghandchi.com/IONA/newsword.pdf). Retrieved from http://www.ghandchi.com/IONA/newsword.pdf

- In this text, Midgley examines relativistic ideas through an old Japanese law that said that it was lawful for samurai to try out their new swords on common people that they came across in society. This article will assist you in your Week 1 Discussion and Ethical Question assignment.
  Accessibility Statement does not exist.
  Privacy Policy does not exist.

Recommended Resources

Text

Thames, B. (2018). *How should one live? An introduction to ethics and moral reasoning* (3rd ed.). Retrieved from

https://content.ashford.edu

- Chapter 1: Introduction
    - o Primary Sources: Plato's *Myth of the Cave*
    - o Going Deeper: Ethics Versus Morality

- o   Going Deeper: Socrates and the Philosophical Life
- o   Going Deeper: Ethics and Religion
- o   Going Deeper: Dialectic Scenarios
- o   Going Deeper: "Who Am I to Say?": Neutral Versus Undecided
- Chapter 2: Skepticism About Ethics
  - o   Going Deeper: Are Ethical Standards Merely Expressions of Attitude?

Web Pages

Open Culture. (n.d.). Free online philosophy courses. Retrieved from

http://www.openculture.com/philosophy_free_courses

- This web page provides links to free philosophy courses that you can watch or listen to and may assist you in your Week 1 Discussion.

  Accessibility Statement does not exist.

  Privacy Policy

The stone. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.nytimes.com/column/the-stone

- This regularly updated blog on the New York Times website features contemporary philosophers writing on a wide variety of topics and may assist you in your Week 1 Discussion and Ethical Question assignment.

  Accessibility Statement does not exist.

  Privacy Policy

Websites

AskPhilosophers. (http://www.askphilosophers.org/)

- This website provides a forum in which people can submit questions and trained philosophers do their best to respond to them. To date, it has answered thousands of questions on dozens of topics. This website may assist you in your Week 1 Discussion and Ethical Question assignment.

  Accessibility Statement does not exist.

  Privacy Policy does not exist.

Ethics Matters. (http://ethicsmatterstvseries.com/)

- This website hosts an Australian youth-oriented television show that has 12-minute episodes (available online) on some aspect of ethical theory or a contemporary moral or political problem and may assist you in your Week 1 Discussion and Ethical Question assignment.

  Accessibility Statement does not exist.

Privacy Policy does not exist.

Hi-Phi Nation. (https://hiphination.org/)

- This website hosts a podcast about philosophy that "turns stories into ideas" and may assist you in your Week 1 Discussion and Ethical Question assignment.
  Accessibility Statement does not exist.
  Privacy Policy does not exist.

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy. (http://www.iep.utm.edu/)

- This website is an excellent scholarly resource for introductions to many philosophical topics and may assist you in your Week 1 Discussion and Ethical Question assignment.
  Accessibility Statement does not exist.
  Privacy Policy does not exist.

1000-Word Philosophy. (https://1000wordphilosophy.wordpress.com/)

- This website provides very short (5 to 10 minutes) introductions to various philosophical topics, including bibliographies. It is useful as a starting point for deeper inquiries and may assist you in your Week 1 Discussion and Ethical Question assignment.
  Accessibility Statement does not exist.
  Privacy Policy does not exist.

Philosophical Installations. (https://philinstall.uoregon.edu/)

- This website provides a comprehensive collection of videos on all sorts of philosophical topics and may assist you in your Week 1 Discussion and Ethical Question assignment.
  Accessibility Statement does not exist.
  Privacy Policy

Philosophy Bites. (http://philosophybites.com/)

- This website hosts podcasts featuring short, accessible interviews with philosophers on a variety of topics and may assist you in your Week 1 Discussion and Ethical Question assignment.
  Accessibility Statement does not exist.
  Privacy Policy does not exist.

Philosophy Talk. (https://www.philosophytalk.org/)

- This website hosts a radio program, listenable online, featuring philosophers Ken Taylor and John Perry discussing a wide range of topics with various guests and may assist you in your Week 1 Discussion and Ethical Question assignment.
  Accessibility Statement does not exist.

Privacy Policy does not exist.

PhilPapers. (https://philpapers.org/)

- This website hosts a massive database of philosophical articles and books. While its size can be daunting, many topics provide brief overviews of the literature, including suggestions for starting points and may assist you in your Week 1 Discussion and Ethical Question assignment.
  Accessibility Statement does not exist.
  Privacy Policy does not exist.

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. (https://plato.stanford.edu/)

- This website provides scholarly yet accessible articles on almost every major philosophical topic and figure, written and peer reviewed by experts in the field and may assist you in your Week 1 Discussion and Ethical Question assignment.
  Accessibility Statement does not exist.
  Privacy Policy does not exist.

Wi-Phi. (http://www.wi-phi.com/)

- This website provides short, animated videos on a variety of philosophical topics and may assist you in your Week 1 Discussion and Ethical Question assignment.
  Accessibility Statement does not exist.
  Privacy Policy does not exist.

Discussions

Participate in the following discussions:

1. **Post Your Introduction [WLOs: 1] [CLOs: 1, 3].** *1st Post Due by Day 1*. Tell us about yourself! This is a chance to get to know one another a bit. Then, briefly describe what comes to mind when you think of "ethics" or "morality." Why do you think it might be important to have a course devoted to that topic, and what are you expecting to gain from the class? (Do not worry about going into a lot of detail; this is just to get us started thinking.)

2. **Week 1 Discussion [WLOs: 1, 2, 3] [CLOs: 1, 3, 4, 5].** *1st Post Due by Day 3*. Post on at least three separate days. This week you will have one discussion focused on the challenges of egoism and/or relativism discussed in Chapter 2 of the textbook. Your instructor will be choosing the discussion question and posting it as the first post in the discussion forum. The requirements for the discussion this week include the following:

- You must begin posting by Day 3 (Thursday).

- You must post a minimum of four separate posts on at least three separate days (e.g., Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, or Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, or Thursday, Saturday, and Monday, etc.).

- The total combined word count for all of your posts, counted together, should be at least 600 words, not including references.

- You must answer all the questions in the prompt and show evidence of having read the resources that are required to complete the discussion properly (such as by using quotes, referring to specific points made in the text, etc.).

- In order to satisfy the posting requirements for the week, posts must be made by Day 7 (Monday); posts made after Day 7 are welcome but will not count toward the requirements.

- Be sure to reply to your classmates and instructor. You are encouraged to read posts your instructor makes (even if they are not in response to your own post), and reply to those as a way of examining the ideas in greater depth.

- All postings (including replies to peers) are expected to be thought out, proofread for mechanical, grammatical, and spelling accuracy, and to advance the discussion in an intelligent and meaningful way (i.e., saying something like "I really enjoyed what you had to say" will not count). You are also encouraged to do outside research and quote from that as well.

- For more information, please read the Frequently Asked Questions.

Quiz

1. **Week 1 Quiz [WLOs: 1, 2, 3] [CLOs: 1, 2, 4].** *Due by Day 6*. Complete the quiz on the assigned readings for the week. The quiz contains 20 multiple-choice or true/false questions. You will have 4 hours to complete the quiz and it must be taken in one sitting. You have up to three attempts to complete this quiz, and the system will record the highest score.

Assignment

1. **Ethical Question [WLO: 4] [CLOs: 1, 5].** *Due by Day 7*. Prior to beginning work on this assignment, read Chapter 1 of the textbook. This chapter will introduce you to the basic form and subject matter of ethical reasoning and assist you as you select an ethical question, examine the context, issues, and arguments surrounding the question, and attempt to defend an answer to the question.

Please read these assignment instructions before writing your paper as they contain very precise and specific instructions on both the content and format requirements. You should download the provided outline and use that to structure your paper, as well as consult the assignment guidance and modeled example for additional help. Finally, before submitting your assignment please use the checklist to ensure that you have completed all of the requirements.

Overview

This course has three written assignments that build upon one another and are designed to take you step-by-step through a process of writing a paper that identifies an ethical question, examines the context, issues, and arguments surrounding the question, and attempts to defend an answer to that question using strong moral reasoning.

This first written assignment is a six-part exercise comprised of the following sections:

1. Ethical Question
2. Introduction
3. Position Statement
4. Reasons in Support of Your Position
5. Opposing Position Statement
6. Reasons in Support of the Opposing Position

The assignment should be 500 words, written in essay form, with six clearly labeled sections as indicated below, and include a title page and reference page.

Part 1: Ethical Question

Before writing the paper, you will need to spend some time thinking about the specific ethical issue you want to focus on throughout this course.

- Begin this task by viewing the list of approved ethical topics and questions provided in the Week 1 Announcement titled: "Written Assignment Ethical Topics and Questions List." Take some time looking over the list and browsing through some of the material in the corresponding chapters of the textbook in which each topic is addressed and decide which to focus on.

- Once you have done this, choose one of the ethical questions associated with that topic. If you wish to do so, you may formulate your own ethical question, but make sure to carefully study the provided questions and model your own question after them in terms of specificity and ethical focus.

Place the ethical question under the Part 1: Ethical Question heading at the top of the paper.

Part 2: Introduction

In this section of your paper, you should introduce the topic and question at issue by doing the following (not necessarily in this exact order):

- Explain its relevance and importance.
- Define any key terms and concepts.
- Provide any relevant context and background information.
- Briefly reference an idea, quote, or analysis of the issue that you have found in one of the required resources on the topic.

The introduction will be the longest section of this assignment and should be at least 300 words in one or two paragraphs. Place the introduction material under the Part 2: Introduction.

Part 3: Position Statement

Your work on the introduction section has likely unearthed various positions one might take on the ethical question you have chosen. In this section, you will formulate a position statement.

- A position statement is a one sentence statement that articulates your position on the issue and directly answers the question you have raised. For example, if the question was, "What is a physician's obligation with respect to telling the truth to his or her patients?" a position statement might be "A physician may never directly lie to a patient, but it may be moral for a physician to withhold information if the physician reasonably believes doing so directly benefits the patient." A different position statement might be: "A physician may use any means necessary, including lying to a patient, if the physician believes that will produce the best overall results." However, the following statement would not be a sufficient position statement: "A physician must always respect the rights of his or her patients." The reason this is not a sufficient position statement is that it does not directly answer the question concerning truth telling.

- Think of the position statement as the strongest claim you would make if you were a prosecuting attorney making your opening statement to a jury, where you want to state precisely and directly the position you want them to believe.

Place the position statement under the Part 3: Position Statement heading.

Part 4: Reasons in Support of Your Position

Now that you have articulated a position on the issue, write a short paragraph—just a few sentences—that presents and explains one or two of the strongest reasons in support of your position statement.

- You want your supporting reason to explain why someone should support the position you are taking on the ethical question. A supporting reason is a consideration that helps to show why your position is stronger than another position.
- One way to approach this is to imagine yourself in friendly conversation with someone who does not necessarily agree with your position (perhaps they disagree, or perhaps they are undecided). When you state your position, they might ask why you think that; the kind of response you would give is a supporting reason.
- Supporting reasons can include many things including, but not limited to: an appeal to moral principles such as duty, justice, fairness and equality; the positive or negative effects of certain actions on policies; or a summary of facts, statistics or evidence and an explanation of how they support your view.

Place the supporting reason(s) under the Part 4: Reasons in Support of Your Position heading.

Part 5: Opposing Position Statement

Now that you have provided reasons to support your position statement, in this section you will take a step back from all of that and articulate a statement that expresses an opposing or contrary statement.

- Think of the opposing position statement as the strongest claim you would make if you were the defense attorney making your opening statement to the jury immediately after they have heard the prosecutor's statement.

Place the opposing position statement under the Part 5: Opposing Position Statement heading.

Part 6: Reasons in Support of the Opposing Position

In this section, write a short paragraph—just a few sentences—that presents and explains one or two of the strongest reasons in support of the opposing position statement.

- A strong opposing reason is a reason anyone would need to consider, even if they do not agree with the opposing position.
- In other words, do not simply contradict claims that you make in Part 4, especially factual claims! You should strive to identify and articulate considerations in support of the opposing position that you think are accurate and true, or at least plausible, even if you still believe your own position has the most support overall.
- If the reason(s) in support of the opposing position are ones you consider obviously false or indefensible, you should look for better reasons.
- Put yourself in the position of a defense attorney who has to make the best possible case to the jury in defense of his or her client.

Place the opposing reasons under the Part 6: Reasons in Support of the Opposing Position heading.

In your paper,

- Identify the ethical question.
- Introduce the topic and question.
- Formulate a position statement.
- Explain the strongest reasons in support of the position statement.
- Formulate an opposing position statement.
- Explain the strongest reasons in support of the opposing position statement.

The Ethical Question paper

- Must be 500 to 600 words in length (not including title and references pages) and formatted according to APA style as outlined in the Ashford Writing Center's APA Style resource.
- Must include a separate title page with the following:
  - Title of paper
  - Student's name
  - Course name and number
  - Instructor's name
  - Date submitted

For further assistance with the formatting and the title page, refer to APA Formatting for Word 2013.

- Must utilize academic voice. See the Academic Voice resource for additional guidance.

- Must document any information used from sources in APA style as outlined in the Ashford Writing Center's Citing Within Your Paper guide.

- Must include a separate references page that is formatted according to APA style as outlined in the Ashford Writing Center. See the Formatting Your References List resource in the Ashford Writing Center for specifications.

WEEK 2

UTILITARIANISM: MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

To be completed during the second week of class.

Overview

Activity	Due Date	Format	Grading Percent
Week 2 Discussion	Day 3 (1st post)	Discussion	4
Week 2 Symposium	Day 3 (1st post)	Discussion	3
Week 2 Quiz	Day 6	Quiz	5

Weekly Learning Outcomes

This week students will

1. Analyze the utilitarian theory of ethics using the textbook and primary texts.
2. Discuss the implications, merits, and drawbacks of utilitarian ethical theory.
3. Apply utilitarian theory to contemporary ethical issues.

Introduction

Utilitarianism is the theory that the ethical actions are those whose overall consequences are greater than those of other available actions, usually understood in terms of how much happiness and suffering results from actions. The primary historical source for utilitarianism will be the 19th century British philosopher John Stuart Mill, whose ideas you will analyze and relate to contemporary issues with the help of the textbook. Your main discussion will focus on utilitarian theory and you will also have a "symposium" discussion that applies utilitarianism to a contemporary ethical issue. Be sure to look ahead to Week 3 and begin working on the Week 3 Assignment.

Required Resources

Text

Thames, B. (2018). *How should one live? An introduction to ethics and moral reasoning* (3rd ed.). Retrieved from

      https://content.ashford.edu

- Chapter 3: Utilitarianism: Making the World a Better Place
    - 3.1: Introduction to Utilitarianism
    - 3.2: Putting Utilitarianism Into Practice
    - 3.3: Common Misconceptions
    - 3.4: Strengths of Utilitarianism
    - 3.5: Objections to Utilitarianism
    - 3.6: Varieties of Utilitarianism
    - Conclusion & Summary
    - Primary Sources: Chapter 2: What Utilitarianism Is, from *Utilitarianism* by John Stuart Mill (1863)
        - Read up to "Objections and Replies"

Recommended Resources

Book

Mill, J. S. (2008). Utilitarianism. In J. Bennett (Ed. & Rev.), *Early Modern Philosophy*. Retrieved from

      http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/mill1863.pdf (Original work published 1863)

- This is same text found in your textbook, but the language has been slightly changed to align more closely with contemporary English. This book may assist you with your Week 2 Discussion and Week 2 Symposium.
    Accessibility Statement does not exist.
    Privacy Policy does not exist.

Article

Mill, J. S. (1873). Autobiography. Retrieved from http://www.utilitarianism.com/millauto/

- A fascinating account of Mill's prodigious childhood and education, including an account of his nervous breakdown at the age of 19 and how he emerged from that. Provides a lot of insight into why his theory of

utilitarianism departed from Bentham's in the way that he did. This article may assist you in your Week 2 Discussion and Week 2 Symposium.

Accessibility Statement does not exist.

Privacy Policy does not exist.

Multimedia

Garcia, P. (Director), & Kononovich, L. (Producer). (2004). Ethics: What is right? [Series episode]. In C. Scherer (Executive producer), *Great ideas of philosophy I*. Retrieved from https://fod.infobase.com/OnDemandEmbed.aspx?token=32706&wID=100753&plt=FOD&loid=0&w=640&h=480&fWidth=660&fHeight=530

- Watch this video between the 25-minute and 31-minute marks. This segment of the video discusses the history, development, and core principles of the ethical theory of utilitarianism. This video may assist you in your Week 2 Discussion and Week 2 Symposium. This video has closed captioning and a transcript.
  Accessibility Statement
  Privacy Policy

Website

Utilitarianism Resources. (http://www.utilitarianism.com/)

- The website contains a large collection of resources and texts related to utilitarianism and may assist you with your Week 2 Discussion and Week 2 Symposium.
  Accessibility Statement does not exist.
  Privacy Policy does not exist.

Discussions

Participate in the following discussions:

1. **Week 2 Discussion [WLOs: 1, 2, 3] [CLOs: 3, 4, 5].** *1st Post Due by Day 3*. Post on at least three separate days. This week our main discussion will focus on explaining and evaluating the utilitarian ethical theory as discussed in Chapter 3 of the textbook. Your instructor will be choosing the discussion question and posting it as the first post in the main discussion forum. The requirements for the discussion this week include the following:

   - You must begin posting by Day 3 (Thursday).

- You must post a minimum of four separate posts on at least three separate days (e.g., Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, or Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, or Thursday, Saturday, and Monday, etc.).

- The total combined word count for all of your posts, counted together, should be at least 600 words, not including references.

- You must answer all the questions in the prompt and show evidence of having read the resources that are required to complete the discussion properly (such as by using quotes, referring to specific points made in the text, etc.).

- In order to satisfy the posting requirements for the week, posts must be made by Day 7 (Monday); posts made after Day 7 are welcome but will not count toward the requirements.

- Be sure to reply to your classmates and instructor. You are encouraged to read posts your instructor makes (even if they are not in response to your own post) and reply to those as a way of examining the ideas in greater depth.

- All postings (including replies to peers) are expected to be thought out, proofread for mechanical, grammatical, and spelling accuracy, and to advance the discussion in an intelligent and meaningful way (i.e., saying something like "I really enjoyed what you had to say" will not count). You are also encouraged to do outside research and quote from that as well.

- For more information, please read the Frequently Asked Questions.

2. **Week 2 Symposium [WLOs: 2, 3] [CLOs: 3, 4, 5].** *1ˢᵗ Post Due by Day 3*. Post on at least two separate days.

In the Ancient Greek world (the world of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, often regarded as the birthplace of philosophy) a "symposium" was a banquet held after a meal, an "after party" of sorts that usually included drinking, dancing, recitals, and engaging conversations on the topics of the day.

For our purposes in this course, the Symposium discussions will not involve dancing, recitals, or a banquet, but they will provide food for thought on current ethical issues and direct application of the ethical theory discussed in each of these weeks.

It is almost impossible these days to turn on the news or log onto social media without encountering a controversy that cries out for ethical discussion. For these Symposium discussions, your instructor will choose a topic of current ethical interest and a resource associated with it for you to read or watch. Your task is to consider how the ethical theory of the week might be used to examine, understand, or evaluate the issue.

This week, you will consider how utilitarianism applies to a controversy, dilemma, event, or scenario selected by your instructor. It is a chance for you to discuss together the ethical issues and questions that it raises, your own response to those, and whether that aligns with or does not align with a utilitarian approach. The aim is not to simply assert your own view or to denigrate other views, but to identify, evaluate, and discuss the moral reasoning involved in addressing the chosen issue.

Your posts should remain focused on the ethical considerations, and at some point in your contribution you must specifically address the way a utilitarian would approach this issue by explaining and evaluating that approach.

If you have a position, you should strive to provide reasons in defense of that position.

When responding to peers, you should strive to first understand the reasons they are offering before challenging or critiquing those reasons. One good way of doing this is by summarizing their argument before offering a critique or evaluation.

You must post on at least two separate days, must include at least one substantial reply to a peer or to your instructor, and your posts should add up to at least 400 words.

Your instructor may include additional requirements, so be sure to pay attention to the prompt.

Quiz

1. **Week 2 Quiz [WLOs: 1, 2, 3] [CLOs: 1, 2, 4].** *Due by Day 6*. Complete the quiz on the assigned readings for the week. The quiz contains 20 multiple-choice or true/false questions. You will have 4 hours to complete the quiz and it must be taken in one sitting. You have up to three attempts to complete this quiz, and the system will record the highest score.

WEEK 3

DEONTOLOGY: DOING ONE'S DUTY

To be completed during the third week of class.

Overview

Activity	Due Date	Format	Grading Percent
Week 3 Discussion	Day 3 (1st post)	Discussion	4
Week 3 Symposium	Day 3 (1st post)	Discussion	3
Week 3 Quiz	Day 6	Quiz	5
Applying an Ethical Theory	Day 7	Assignment	12

Weekly Learning Outcomes

This week students will

1. Analyze the deontological theory of ethics using the textbook and primary texts.
2. Discuss the implications, merits, and drawbacks of deontological ethical theory.
3. Apply deontology to contemporary ethical issues.
4. Apply an ethical theory to a contemporary ethical question.

Introduction

Deontology is the theory that ethics and moral reasoning is primarily concerned with duties. Deontologists maintain that certain actions are required or forbidden in themselves, independent of their consequences, and seek to identify and defend those principles that underlie our duties. The primary historical source for deontology will be the 18th century German philosopher Immanuel Kant, whose ideas you will analyze and relate to contemporary issues with the help of the textbook. Our main discussion will focus on Kant's deontological theory and we will also have a "symposium" discussion

that applies deontology to a contemporary ethical issue. You will also complete the Week 3 Assignment ("Applying an Ethical Theory"), which involves applying deontology, utilitarianism, or virtue ethics to the issue you raised in the Week 1 assignment ("Ethical Questions").

Required Resources

Text

Thames, B. (2018). *How should one live? An introduction to ethics and moral reasoning* (3rd ed.). Retrieved from
> https://content.ashford.edu

- Chapter 4: Deontology: Doing One's Duty
  - 4.1: Introduction to Deontology
  - 4.2: Immanuel Kant
  - 4.3: Challenges to Kant's Theory
  - Conclusion & Summary

Book

Kant, I. (2008). [Groundwork for the metaphysic of morals](). In J. Bennett (Ed. & Trans.), *Early Modern Philosophy*.
> Retrieved from http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/kant1785.pdf (Original work published 1785)

- Please read the sections from Chapters 1 and 2 marked in red in the document available in the online classroom. Immanuel Kant was one of the most important philosophers of the modern period, and this text articulates and defends what some philosophers consider as the definitive expression of deontological ethics, the Categorical Imperative. This reading may assist you in your Week 3 Discussion, Week 3 Symposium, Week 3 Quiz, and Applying an Ethical Theory assignment.
  Accessibility Statement does not exist.
  Privacy Policy does not exist.

Recommended Resources

Text

Thames, B. (2018). *How should one live? An introduction to ethics and moral reasoning* (3rd ed.). Retrieved from
> https://content.ashford.edu

- Chapter 4: Deontology: Doing One's Duty
  - Going Deeper: The Roots of the Categorical Imperative

o   Going Deeper: Kant and Contemporary Moral Values

Articles

O'Neill, O. (n.d.). A simplified account of Kant's ethics. Retrieved from

http://users.manchester.edu/Facstaff/SSNaragon/Online/texts/201/O'Neill,%20Kant.pdf

- O'Neill offers a simplified account of Kant's ethics—particularly the Formula of Humanity—that may help provide clarity to these challenging ideas. This article may assist you in your Week 3 Discussion, Week 3 Symposium, and Applying an Ethical Theory assignment.
  Accessibility Statement does not exist.
  Privacy Policy does not exist.

Sayre-McCord, G. (2000). Kant's *Grounding for the metaphysics of morals*: A very brief selective summary of sections I and II. Retrieved from http://www.unc.edu/~gsmunc/phil22/Kantsum.pdf

- This PDF provides a good summary of Kant's sections I and II, especially for those interested in the aspects of the view that go beyond the required portions of the text. This article may assist you in your Week 3 Discussion, Week 3 Symposium, and Applying an Ethical Theory assignment.
  Accessibility Statement
  Privacy Policy

Multimedia

Velleman, J. D. [James D Velleman]. (2014, May 14). *Lectures on Kant's* Groundwork for the metaphysics of morals [YouTube playlist]. Retrieved from

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLoX4xxkbESk3kxLrCXEc0_nen7K8olheE

- This playlist is a series of short lectures on Kant's ethics from a leading scholar.
  Accessibility Statement
  Privacy Policy

Web Pages

Lee, R. (n.d.). Immanuel Kant: Links. Retrieved from http://comp.uark.edu/~rlee/semiau96/kantlink.html

- This website provides a list of web links on Immanuel Kant and may assist you in your Week 3 Discussion, Week 3 Symposium, and Applying an Ethical Theory assignment.
  Accessibility Statement does not exist.
  Privacy Policy does not exist.

The Philosophy Pages. (n.d.). Immanuel Kant. Retrieved from http://philosophypages.com/ph/kant.htm

- This website provides information about Immanuel Kant and may assist you in your Week 3 Discussion, Week 3 Symposium, and Apply an Ethical Theory assignment.

  Accessibility Statement does not exist.

  Privacy Policy does not exist.

Discussions

Participate in the following discussions:

1. **Week 3 Discussion [WLOs: 1, 2, 3] [CLOs: 3, 4, 5].** *1st Post Due by Day 3*. Post on at least three separate days. This week our main discussion will focus on explaining and evaluating the deontological ethical theory as discussed in Chapter 4 of the textbook. Your instructor will be choosing the discussion question and posting it as the first post in the main discussion forum. The requirements for the discussion this week include the following:
   - You must begin posting by Day 3 (Thursday).
   - You must post a minimum of four separate posts on at least three separate days (e.g., Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, or Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, or Thursday, Saturday, and Monday, etc.).
   - The total combined word count for all of your posts, counted together, should be at least 600 words, not including references.
   - You must answer all the questions in the prompt and show evidence of having read the resources that are required to complete the discussion properly (such as by using quotes, referring to specific points made in the text, etc.).
   - In order to satisfy the posting requirements for the week, posts must be made by Day 7 (Monday); posts made after Day 7 are welcome but will not count toward the requirements.
   - Be sure to reply to your classmates and instructor. You are encouraged to read posts your instructor makes (even if they are not in response to your own post) and reply to those as a way of examining the ideas in greater depth.
   - All postings (including replies to peers) are expected to be thought out, proofread for mechanical, grammatical, and spelling accuracy, and to advance the discussion in an intelligent and meaningful way (i.e., saying something like "I really enjoyed what you had to say" will not count). You are also encouraged to do outside research and quote from that as well.
   - For more information, please read the Frequently Asked Questions.

2. **Week 3 Symposium [WLOs: 2, 3] [CLOs: 3, 4, 5].** *1st Post Due by Day 3*. Post on at least two separate days.

In the Ancient Greek world (the world of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, often regarded as the birthplace of philosophy) a "symposium" was a banquet held after a meal, an "after party" of sorts that usually included drinking, dancing, recitals and engaging conversations on the topics of the day.

For our purposes in this course, the Symposium discussions will not involve dancing, recitals or a banquet, but they will provide food for thought on current ethical issues and direct application of the ethical theory discussed in each of these weeks.

It is almost impossible these days to turn on the news or log onto social media without encountering a controversy that cries out for ethical discussion. For these Symposium discussions, your instructor will choose a topic of current ethical interest and a resource associated with it for you to read or watch. Your task is to consider how the ethical theory of the week might be used to examine, understand or evaluate the issue.

This week, you will consider how deontology applies to a controversy, dilemma, event, or scenario selected by your instructor. It is a chance for you to discuss together the ethical issues and questions that it raises, your own response to those, and whether that aligns with or does not align with a deontological approach. The aim is not to simply assert your own view or to denigrate other views, but to identify, evaluate, and discuss the moral reasoning involved in addressing the chosen issue.

Your posts should remain focused on the ethical considerations, and at some point in your contribution you must specifically address the way someone with a deontological view would approach this issue by explaining and evaluating that approach.

If you have a position, you should strive to provide reasons in defense of that position.

When responding to peers, you should strive to first understand the reasons they are offering before challenging or critiquing those reasons. One good way of doing this is by summarizing their argument before offering a critique or evaluation.

You must post on at least two separate days, must include at least one substantial reply to a peer or to your instructor, and your posts should add up to at least 400 words.

Your instructor may include additional requirements, so be sure to pay attention to the prompt.

Quiz

1. **Week 3 Quiz [WLOs: 1, 2, 3] [CLOs: 1, 2, 4].** *Due by Day 6*. Complete the quiz on the assigned readings for the week. The quiz contains 20 multiple-choice or true/false questions. You will have 4 hours to complete the quiz and it must be taken in one sitting. You have up to three attempts to complete this quiz, and the system will record the highest score.

Assignment

1. **Applying an Ethical Theory [WLO: 4] [CLOs: 1, 2, 3, 4].** *Due by Day 7*. Please read these assignment instructions before writing your paper as they contain very precise and specific instructions on both the content and format requirements. You should download the provided outline and use that to structure your paper, and also consult the assignment guidance and modeled example for additional help. Finally, before submitting your assignment please use the checklist to ensure that you have completed all of the requirements.

Overview

This course has three written assignments that build upon one another and are designed to take you step-by-step through a process of writing a paper that identifies an ethical question, examines the context, issues, and arguments surrounding the question, and attempts to defend an answer to that question using strong moral reasoning.

This second written assignment is a six-part exercise comprised of the following sections:

1. Ethical Question
2. Introduction
3. Explanation of the Ethical Theory
4. Application of the Ethical Theory

For sections (1) and (2) revise and expand on what you did in the first assignment.
Sections (3) and (4) are new.

The main purpose of this paper is to define the nature and scope of the ethical theory in a way that shows how the core principle(s) of that theory lead to a specific moral conclusion on your ethical question. Another way to think of this is to explain how someone who is fully committed to the moral reasoning of the ethical theory would answer your ethical question (even if it is not necessarily how you would answer the question).

The assignment should be 900 to 1,000 words, written in essay form with clearly labeled sections as indicated below, and include a title page and reference page.

Part 1: Ethical Question

State the ethical question beneath this heading.

- This question should be on the same topic as the question presented in the week one assignment, and if necessary, revised based on your instructor's comments and the additional insight and information you have gained from research on the topic. If you would like to switch topics, you should first consult with your instructor.

Place your ethical question beneath the Part 1: Ethical Question heading.

Part 2: Introduction

Provide an introduction to the topic and question.

- This should be revised and expanded from the Week 1 Introduction in light of your instructor's comments and the additional insight and information you have gained from research on the topic.
- For instance, you may find that your original ideas about the issue have changed and clarified, that the focus of the ethical question has shifted or become more specific, and/or that there are important background and contextual details that need to be explained.
- The revised introduction should reflect your additional thinking on the scope and significance of the ethical issue, and address any feedback provided by your instructor.
- The introduction should be at least 300 words in one or two paragraphs.

Place the introduction material under the Part 2: Introduction heading.

Part 3: Explanation of the Ethical Theory

Ethical theories provide accounts of how to reason well about moral questions and of what justifies answers to those questions. In this section of the paper, you will discuss either the ethical theory of utilitarianism, deontology, or virtue ethics.

You should not discuss your topic in this section, but focus only on the ethical theory.

The discussion should include the following elements:

- A brief account of the historical background of the theory and the philosopher(s) associated with it.
- An explanation of the core moral principle of the theory, or if there is more than one, the principle that you will focus on in applying that theory to your question.
- A brief, general explanation of how the theory and its core moral principle applies to moral questions, using an example different from the issue that is the main focus of your paper. (For example, if your focus is on how deontology applies to using animals in medical research, you could explain Kant's moral theory by discussing how it would apply to an issue like lying for the sake of the greater good.)
- This section should focus only on the ethical theory. For instance, if you are discussing physician-assisted suicide from a utilitarian perspective, this section should only discuss utilitarianism in general terms; you should not discuss physician-assisted suicide, euthanasia, or other related topics until the next section.
- The discussion should be around 300 words and must incorporate at least one quote from the required resources on the ethical theory you have chosen to discuss.

Place this section under the Part 3: Ethical Theory heading.

Part 4: Application of the Ethical Theory

Now that you have explained in general terms the core principle of the ethical theory you are focusing on in this paper, you will apply that theory and its core principle to your ethical question.

- Explain as clearly and precisely as you can how that principle leads to a particular conclusion.
- You can think of that conclusion as the answer someone would most likely give to your question if they were reasoning along the utilitarian, deontological, or virtue ethics lines you explained in Part 3.
- Note: This conclusion does not need to be the same as the position you stated in the Week 1 assignment. In fact, it could be the opposing position you discussed there. See the remarks about main purpose of the paper above.
- This section should be around 300 words.

Place this section under the Part 4: Application of the Ethical Theory section.

In your paper,

- Identify the ethical question.

- Introduce the topic and question.

- Explain the ethical theory of utilitarianism, deontology, or virtue ethics.

- Apply the selected ethical theory to the ethical question.

The Applying an Ethical Theory paper

- Must be 900 words in length (not including title and references pages) and formatted according to APA style as outlined in the Ashford Writing Center's APA Style resource.

- Must include a separate title page with the following:
    - Title of paper
    - Student's name
    - Course name and number
    - Instructor's name
    - Date submitted

    For further assistance with the formatting and the title page, refer to APA Formatting for Word 2013.

- Must utilize academic voice. See the Academic Voice resource for additional guidance.

- Must quote from at least one of the required resources on the selected ethical theory.
    - The Scholarly, Peer Reviewed, and Other Credible Sources table offers additional guidance on appropriate source types. If you have questions about whether a specific source is appropriate for this assignment, please contact your instructor. Your instructor has the final say about the appropriateness of a specific source for a particular assignment.

- Must document any information used from sources in APA style as outlined in the Ashford Writing Center's Citing Within Your Paper guide.

- Must include a separate references page that is formatted according to APA style as outlined in the Ashford Writing Center. See the Formatting Your References List resource in the Ashford Writing Center for specifications.

WEEK 4

VIRTUE ETHICS: BEING A GOOD PERSON

To be completed during the fourth week of class.

Overview

Activity	Due Date	Format	Grading Percent
Week 4 Discussion	Day 3 (1st post)	Discussion	4
Week 4 Symposium	Day 3 (1st post)	Discussion	3
Week 4 Quiz	Day 6	Quiz	5

Weekly Learning Outcomes

This week students will

1. Analyze the theory of virtue ethics using the textbook and primary texts.
2. Discuss the implications, merits, and drawbacks of virtue ethics.
3. Apply virtue ethics to contemporary ethical issues.

Introduction

Virtue ethics is the theory that ethics should focus primarily on an account of human flourishing and living well and the character traits or "virtues" needed for that. While virtue ethicists consider good outcomes and principles of good actions to be important, they cannot substitute for the capacity to make wise choices in particular circumstances that virtues provide. The primary historical source for virtue ethics will be the Ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle, whose ideas you will analyze and relate to contemporary issues with the help of the textbook. Your main discussion will focus on virtue theory and you will also have a "symposium" discussion that applies virtue ethics to a contemporary ethical issue.

Required Resources

Text

Thames, B. (2018). *How should one live? An introduction to ethics and moral reasoning* (3rd ed.). Retrieved from

    https://content.ashford.edu

- Chapter 5: Virtue Ethics: Being a Good Person
    - 5.1: Introduction
    - 5.2: What Is Virtue Ethics?
    - 5.3: Virtues and Moral Reasoning
    - 5.4: The Nicomachean Ethics
    - 5.5: Objections to Virtue Ethics
    - Conclusion & Summary
    - Primary Sources: Selections from *Nichomachean Ethics* by Aristotle, Translated by W. D. Ross

Recommended Resources

Text

Thames, B. (2018). *How should one live? An introduction to ethics and moral reasoning* (3rd ed.). Retrieved from

    https://content.ashford.edu

- Chapter 5: Virtue Ethics: Being a Good Person
    - Going Deeper: Pleasure and Pain: Aristotle Versus Utilitarianism
    - Going Deeper: The Situationist Critique

Article

Hursthouse, R., & Pettigrove, G. (2016, December 8). Virtue ethics. Retrieved from

    http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-virtue/

- This resource is an excellent overview of virtue ethics, including some of the major criticisms and how virtue ethicists have responded to them. This article may assist you in your Week 4 Discussion and Week 4 Symposium.

    Accessibility Statement does not exist.

    Privacy Policy does not exist.

Multimedia

Annas, J. (2014, March 26). *Episode 57: Julia Annas discusses virtue ethics* (M. Teichman, Interviewer, & D.

  Jagannathan, Interviewer) [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from

  https://lucian.uchicago.edu/blogs/elucidations/2014/03/26/episode-57-julia-annas-discusses-virtue-ethics/

- A leading classical philosophy scholar and virtue ethicist discusses virtue ethics in an informative and interesting interview. This podcast may assist you in your Week 4 Discussion and Week 4 Symposium. Accessibility Statement does not exist.
  Privacy Policy does not exist.

Discussions

Participate in the following discussions:

1. **Week 4 Discussion [WLOs: 1, 2, 3] [CLOs: 3, 4, 5].** *1st Post Due by Day 3*. This week our main discussion will focus on explaining and evaluating the theory of virtue ethics as discussed in Chapter 5 of the textbook. Your instructor will be choosing the discussion question and posting it as the first post in the main discussion forum. The requirements for the discussion this week include the following:

   - You must begin posting by Day 3 (Thursday).
   - You must post a minimum of four separate posts on at least three separate days (e.g., Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, or Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, or Thursday, Saturday, and Monday, etc.).
   - The total combined word count for all of your posts, counted together, should be at least 600 words, not including references.
   - You must answer all the questions in the prompt and show evidence of having read the resources that are required to complete the discussion properly (such as by using quotes, referring to specific points made in the text, etc.).
   - In order to satisfy the posting requirements for the week, posts must be made by Day 7 (Monday); posts made after Day 7 are welcome but will not count toward the requirements.
   - Be sure to reply to your classmates and instructor. You are encouraged to read posts your instructor makes (even if they are not in response to your own post) and reply to those as a way of examining the ideas in greater depth.
   - All postings (including replies to peers) are expected to be thought out, proofread for mechanical, grammatical, and spelling accuracy, and to advance the discussion in an intelligent and meaningful way (i.e., saying something like "I really enjoyed what you had to say" will not count). You are also encouraged to do outside research and quote from that as well.

- For more information, please read the Frequently Asked Questions.

2. **Week 4 Symposium [WLOs: 2, 3] [CLOs: 3, 4, 5].** *1ˢᵗ Post Due by Day 3*. Post on at least two separate days.

In the Ancient Greek world (the world of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, often regarded as the birthplace of philosophy) a "symposium" was a banquet held after a meal, an "after party" of sorts that usually included drinking, dancing, recitals and engaging conversations on the topics of the day.

For our purposes in this course, the Symposium discussions will not involve dancing, recitals or a banquet, but they will provide food for thought on current ethical issues and direct application of the ethical theory discussed in each of these weeks.

It is almost impossible these days to turn on the news or log onto social media without encountering a controversy that cries out for ethical discussion. For these Symposium discussions, your instructor will choose a topic of current ethical interest and a resource associated with it for you to read or watch. Your task is to consider how the ethical theory of the week might be used to examine, understand or evaluate the issue.

This week, you will consider how virtue ethics applies to a controversy, dilemma, event, or scenario selected by your instructor. It is a chance for you to discuss together the ethical issues and questions that it raises, your own response to those, and whether that aligns with or does not align with a virtue ethics approach. The aim is not to simply assert your own view or to denigrate other views, but to identify, evaluate, and discuss the moral reasoning involved in addressing the chosen issue.

Your posts should remain focused on the ethical considerations, and at some point in your contribution you must specifically address the way a virtue ethicist would approach this issue by explaining and evaluating that approach.

If you have a position, you should strive to provide reasons in defense of that position.

When responding to peers, you should strive to first understand the reasons they are offering before challenging or critiquing those reasons. One good way of doing this is by summarizing their argument before offering a critique or evaluation.

You must post on at least two separate days, must include at least one substantial reply to a peer or to your instructor, and your posts should add up to at least 400 words.

Your instructor may include additional requirements, so be sure to pay attention to the prompt.

Quiz

1. **Week 4 Quiz [WLOs: 1, 2, 3] [CLOs: 1, 2, 4].** *Due by Day 6*. Complete the quiz on the assigned readings for the week. The quiz contains 20 multiple-choice or true/false questions. You will have 4 hours to complete the quiz and it must be taken in one sitting. You have up to three attempts to complete this quiz, and the system will record the highest score.

WEEK 5

ETHICS IN THE COMMUNITY

To be completed during the fifth week of class.

Overview

Activity	Due Date	Format	Grading Percent
Ethics in the Community	Day 3 (1st post)	Discussion	4
Final Exam	Day 7	Final Exam	10
End of Course Survey	Day 7	Quiz	0.5
Ethical Reasoning	Day 7	Final Paper	15

Weekly Learning Outcomes

This week students will

1. Identify an important ethical issue in their local community.
2. Discuss the implications and applications of ethical theories to the ethical issue in their local community.
3. Defend a position on a disputed ethical question.

Introduction

In this course, and in much of life, the ethical issues that receive the most attention are frequently those that elicit passionate responses and widespread debate, affect large numbers of people, involve matters of deep significance like life and death or fundamental rights, and so on. However, as important as these issues are, there is often a limit to how much impact most individuals can have on such matters; instead, the place where ethics and moral reasoning have their greatest impact is in one's local community. This week, you will present on an important ethical issue or social problem that pertains to your local community. You will also work on researching and writing the final assessment, including reading the chapter from the textbook pertaining to your topic and any necessary supplementary material.

Required Resources

Text

Thames, B. (2018). *How should one live? An introduction to ethics and moral reasoning* (3rd ed.). Retrieved from

> https://content.ashford.edu

- Chapter 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 (depending on the topic of the final paper)

Discussion

Participate in the following discussion:

1. **Ethics in the Community [WLOs: 1, 2] [CLOs: 3, 4, 5].** *1ˢᵗ Post Due by Day 3*. Post on at least three separate days. There is only one discussion this week. The prompt is below the list of requirements. The requirements for the discussion this week include the following:

   - You must begin posting by Day 3 (Thursday).
   - You must post a minimum of four separate posts on at least three separate days (e.g., Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, or Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, or Thursday, Saturday, and Monday, etc.).
   - The total combined word count for all of your posts, counted together, should be at least 600 words, not including references.
   - You must answer all the questions in the prompt and show evidence of having read the resources that are required to complete the discussion properly (such as by using quotes, referring to specific points made in the text, etc.).
   - In order to satisfy the posting requirements for the week, posts must be made by Day 7 (Monday); posts made after Day 7 are welcome but will not count toward the requirements.
   - Be sure to reply to your classmates and instructor. You are encouraged to read posts your instructor makes (even if they are not in response to your own post), and reply to those as a way of examining the ideas in greater depth.
   - All postings (including replies to peers) are expected to be thought out, proofread for mechanical, grammatical, and spelling accuracy, and to advance the discussion in an intelligent and meaningful way (i.e., saying something like "I really enjoyed what you had to say" will not count). You are also encouraged to do outside research and quote from that as well.
   - For more information, please read the Frequently Asked Questions.

Discussion: Ethics in the Community

In Chapter 1 of your text, you saw how moral reasoning involves moving back and forth between general, abstract ideas like principles and values and particular concrete judgments about what is good or right, and seeking to find a kind of agreement or equilibrium between those.

In Chapters 3, 4, and 5, you were introduced to utilitarianism, deontology, and virtue ethics. Each of these ethical theories represents different ways of reasoning about ethical questions, based in different account of the principles, values, and other conceptions that inform the "abstract" side of the dialectic.

In this course, and in much of life, the "concrete" ethical issues that receive the most attention are frequently those that elicit passionate responses and widespread debate, affect large numbers of people, involve matters of deep significance like life and death or fundamental rights, and so on. However, as important as these issues are, there is often a limit to how much impact most individuals can have on such matters; instead, the place where ethics and moral reasoning have their greatest impact is in one's local community. Thus, in this final discussion board, you will demonstrate your grasp of the relation between the abstract ideas in one of these theories and a concrete ethical issue or social problem in your local community.

- Engage the community:
    - Begin by finding an ethical issue or social problem that currently impacts or has recently impacted your local or regional community (such as your neighborhood, town or city, county, school district, religious community, or something of similar scope to any of these).
    - Briefly summarize the issue or problem, and provide a link to a news article, video, or some other resource that documents the issue or problem so that your fellow students can learn more about it when formulating their responses to you.
- Apply the theory:
    - Next, choose one of the ethical theories and discuss how the moral reasoning of the theory might be used to address or resolve the issue or problem.
- Evaluate the reasoning:
    - In evaluating the application of the moral theory you may, for example, consider one or more questions like:
        - Does this differ from the way this issue is currently being addressed?

- ▪ Does it present a better response than another ethical approach would?
        - ▪ Does the theory present an adequate response to the issue, or does it leave significant aspects of the issue unresolved?
        - ▪ Does applying the theory to this issue raise other problems or concerns?
        - ▪ In light of this issue, are there ways the principles or values of the theory might need to be modified from the form that we studied in class?
- Discuss with your peers:
    - o Respond to at least two of your fellow students' posts by evaluating the extent to which you think the ethical theory helps to resolve the issue or problem, or by considering how a different ethical theory might address the problem or issue.

End of Course Survey

1. **End of Course Survey**. *Due by Day 7*. After you have completed the End of Course Survey, please complete the one-question quiz to receive your points. If for any reason you wish not to complete the survey, you may do so and still receive the 0.5 points by completing the one-question quiz.

Final Exam

1. **Final Exam [CLOs: 1, 2, 4].** *Due by Day 7*. The Final Exam consists of 50 true/false and multiple-choice questions that are based on the topics covered in the course. You will have eight hours to complete the exam. You have up to three attempts to complete this quiz, and the system will record the highest score. It is extremely important to study ahead of time for this exam so that you can successfully complete it.

Final Paper

1. **Ethical Reasoning [WLO: 3] [CLOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5].** *Due by Day 7*. Please read these assignment instructions before writing your paper as they contain very precise and specific instructions on both the content and format requirements. You should download the provided outline and use that to structure your paper, and consult the assignment guidance and modeled example for additional help. Finally, before submitting your assignment please use the checklist to ensure that you have completed all of the requirements.

Overview

This course has three written assignments that build upon one another and are designed to take you step-by-step through a process of writing a paper that identifies an ethical question, examines the context, issues, and arguments surrounding the question, and attempts to defend an answer to that question using strong moral reasoning.

In the Week 1 assignment, "Ethical Question," you chose an ethical question, provided an introduction, a position statement and supporting reason, and an opposing position statement and supporting reason.

In the Week 3 assignment, "Applying an Ethical Theory," you explained utilitarianism, deontology, or virtue ethics, including its core moral principle or ideal, and applied that theory to the topic by demonstrating how its principles would support a particular position on your ethical question.

In this final written assignment, you will combine what you have done in these two exercises by examining an ethical issue and defending your own position on an ethical question regarding that issue.

This final written assignment should be written in essay form with the following clearly labeled sections:
1. Introduction
2. Ethical Argument
3. Explanation and Defense
4. Objection and Response
5. Conclusion

The paper should be between 1,300 and 1,500 words, utilize three scholarly resources, and include a title page and reference page.

Part 1: Introduction
In this section of the paper, you will begin with your ethical question, introduce the topic and paper, and close with a thesis statement.
- The ethical question may be the same as your Week 3 written assignment ("Applying an Ethical Theory") or a revised version of it.
- The introduction should be revised in a way that reflects your additional thinking on the issue and question.

- End this section with a thesis statement that states your position on the issue (the answer to the ethical question you believe is strongest) and provides a brief summary of the main ideas you will be presenting in the paper. Please see the assignment guidance for examples of thesis statements.

Place the introduction under the Part 1: Introduction heading.

Part 2: Ethical Argument

In this section of the paper, you will present the strongest argument you can in support of the position you have stated in your introduction.

- This will be similar to the "supporting reasons" you offered in the first assignment; however, this argument should reflect your research into the key ethical issues that need to be identified and addressed, the arguments on different sides of this problem, and the theories of moral reasoning we have studied in the class (you will discuss the specific details and implications of the moral theories in the next two sections).
- You can think of this as a summary of the main argument you would give if you were an attorney trying to convince a jury of your position.

Place this information under the Part 2: Ethical Argument heading.

Part 3: Explanation and Defense

In this section, you will explain and defend your argument by drawing on the moral theory that aligns most closely with the argument you presented in Part 2. This may be the same theory you discussed in your second assignment, but it may also be a different theory.

- You must first explain the theory in general terms similar to how you explained a theory in your second assignment, including a brief account of the historical background of the theory and the philosopher(s) associated with it and general overview of the core moral ideal or principle of the theory, including the way it guides and constrains moral reasoning.
- You should then clearly show how your argument represents an application of that form of moral reasoning.
- In other words, if the argument you present in Part 2 is utilitarian, deontological, or virtue-based (teleological), you will want to explain utilitarianism, deontology, or virtue ethics in general terms, then explain how your argument from Part 2 reflects or draws upon the core principles and values of that

theory. Please refer to the Week 3 assignment instructions for directions on how to explain and apply the moral theory.

Place this section under the Part 3: Explanation and Defense heading.

Part 4: Objection and Response
In this section of the paper, you will present the strongest objection you can to your argument, and briefly defend that objection by appealing to a different ethical theory than the one you focused on in Part 3.

- Briefly explain the core moral ideal or principle of the theory and how that could be the basis of an objection to your argument. For instance, if you explained and defended your own argument by applying the principles of virtue ethics, you could raise an objection from the perspective of utilitarianism by briefly explaining the core utilitarian principle and how applying that principle could lead someone to a different conclusion than the one you are defending.
- Next, you should respond to the objection by explaining why it is not strong enough to undermine the main argument in defense of your position.
- See the assignment guidance for suggestions on how to effectively respond to the objection.

Place this section under the Part 4: Objection and Response heading.

Part 5: Conclusion
In this section of the paper, provide a summary of what you have done in the paper by briefly describing what you accomplished in each of the above sections.

Place this section under the Part 5: Conclusion heading.

Resource Requirement
You must use at least three scholarly resources, only one of which may be the textbook. In other words, you must use at least two scholarly resources in addition to the textbook.

Acceptable ways of using a source include providing a quotation, summary, or paraphrase; merely providing a citation, especially when it is unclear how or where the text supports your claim, is not sufficient.

If you need help with finding additional resources or are unsure about whether a particular resource will count toward the requirement, please contact your instructor.

For sources to count toward the resources requirement, they must be cited within the text of your paper and on the reference page. Sources that are listed on the references page but not cited within the paper do not count toward fulfilling the resources requirement.

In your paper,

- Introduce the topic and paper.
- Provide a thesis statement.
- Present an argument in support of the position.
- Defend the argument by explaining and applying the ethical theory that most closely aligns with the argument.
- Present an objection to the argument by appealing to a different ethical theory.
- Respond to the objection.
- Provide a conclusion that describes what was accomplished in each of the sections of the paper.

The Ethical Reasoning Final Paper

- Must be 1,300 to 1,500 words in length (not including title and references pages) and formatted according to APA style as outlined in the Ashford Writing Center's APA Style resource.
- Must include a separate title page with the following:
  - Title of paper
  - Student's name
  - Course name and number
  - Instructor's name
  - Date submitted

  For further assistance with the formatting and the title page, refer to APA Formatting for Word 2013.
- Must utilize academic voice. See the Academic Voice resource for additional guidance.
- Must use at least two scholarly sources in addition to the course text.
  - The Scholarly, Peer Reviewed, and Other Credible Sources table offers additional guidance on appropriate source types. If you have questions about whether a specific source is appropriate for

this assignment, please contact your instructor. Your instructor has the final say about the appropriateness of a specific source for a particular assignment.

- Must document any information used from sources in APA style as outlined in the Ashford Writing Center's Citing Within Your Paper guide.

- Must include a separate references page that is formatted according to APA style as outlined in the Ashford Writing Center. See the Formatting Your References List resource in the Ashford Writing Center for specifications.

COURSE MAP

The course map illustrates the careful design of the course through which each learning outcome is supported by one or more specific learning activities in order to create integrity and pedagogical depth in the learning experience.

Learning Outcome	Week	Activity
1. Define the nature and scope of morality and ethics.	1	▪ Post Your Introduction – Discussion
	1	▪ Week 1 Discussion – Discussion
	1	▪ Week 1 Quiz – Quiz
	1	▪ Ethical Question – Assignment
	2	▪ Week 2 Quiz – Quiz
	3	▪ Week 3 Quiz – Quiz
	3	▪ Applying an Ethical Theory – Assignment
	4	▪ Week 4 Quiz – Quiz
	5	▪ Final Exam – Final Exam
	5	▪ Ethical Reasoning – Final Paper
2. Differentiate among traditional ethical theories.	1	▪ Week 1 Quiz – Quiz
	2	▪ Week 2 Quiz – Quiz
	3	▪ Week 3 Quiz – Quiz
	3	▪ Applying an Ethical Theory – Assignment
	4	▪ Week 4 Quiz – Quiz
	5	▪ Final Exam – Final Exam
	5	▪ Ethical Reasoning – Final Paper
3. Interpret philosophical thought through critical thinking.	1	▪ Post Your Introduction – Discussion
	1	▪ Week 1 Discussion – Discussion
	2	▪ Week 2 Discussion – Discussion
	2	▪ Week 2 Symposium – Discussion

	3	▪ Week 3 Discussion – Discussion
	3	▪ Week 3 Symposium – Discussion
	3	▪ Applying an Ethical Theory – Assignment
	4	▪ Week 4 Discussion – Discussion
	4	▪ Week 4 Symposium – Discussion
	5	▪ Ethics in the Community – Discussion
	5	▪ Ethical Reasoning – Final Paper
4. Apply the concepts of ethical and moral reasoning to contemporary issues.	1	▪ Week 1 Discussion – Discussion
	1	▪ Week 1 Quiz – Quiz
	1	▪ Ethical Question – Assignment
	2	▪ Week 2 Discussion – Discussion
	2	▪ Week 2 Symposium – Discussion
	2	▪ Week 2 Quiz – Quiz
	3	▪ Week 3 Discussion – Discussion
	3	▪ Week 3 Symposium – Discussion
	3	▪ Week 3 Quiz – Quiz
	3	▪ Applying an Ethical Theory – Assignment
	4	▪ Week 4 Discussion – Discussion
	4	▪ Week 4 Symposium – Discussion
	4	▪ Week 4 Quiz – Quiz
	5	▪ Ethics in the Community – Discussion
	5	▪ Final Exam – Final Exam
	5	▪ Ethical Reasoning – Final Paper
5. Determine your own ethical perspectives through personal reflection.	1	▪ Week 1 Discussion – Discussion
	1	▪ Ethical Question - Assignment
	2	▪ Week 2 Discussion – Discussion
	2	▪ Week 2 Symposium – Discussion
	3	▪ Week 3 Discussion – Discussion
	3	▪ Week 3 Symposium – Discussion
	4	▪ Week 4 Discussion – Discussion

	4	▪ Week 4 Symposium – Discussion
	5	▪ Ethics in the Community – Discussion
	5	▪ Ethical Reasoning – Final Paper