Midland College
Syllabus
PHIL 2306
Ethics
Fall 16 2026
SCH (3-0)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a systematic evaluation of classical and/or contemporary ethical theories concerning the good life, human conduct in society, morals, and standards of value. It covers the major classic philosophies of life with consideration of value in the moral, religious, aesthetic, and scientific points of view. Prerequisite: Students must have satisfied the TSI readiness requirement in reading.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.
2. Define and appropriately use important terms such as relativism, virtue, duty, rights, utilitarianism, natural law, egoism, altruism, autonomy, and care ethics.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of major arguments and problems in ethics.
4. Present and discuss well-reasoned ethical positions in ethics.
5. Apply ethical concepts and principles to moral concerns.
6. Discuss ways of living responsibly in a world of diverse ethical beliefs.
7. Demonstrate personal responsibility by citing all sources properly, writing without plagiarism, and doing independent work.

Core Objectives

This course fulfills the three hour requirement in the Language, Philosophy, and Culture component area in the Midland College Core Curriculum. The Core Curriculum is a set of courses that provide students with a foundation of knowledge, skills, and educational experiences that are essential for all learning. The Core Curriculum can be found here: Midland College Core Curriculum

Philosophy courses promote critical thinking through examination of the human condition and questions about reality, perception and knowledge, meaning, and values. As part of the core, this course addresses the following four objectives:

> **Critical Thinking:** The course involves creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, evaluation, and synthesis of information. Mastery of these skills is accomplished through the following: class discussions; written assignments including analytical

papers, research papers; and exams about philosophical works and their historical context.

Communication: The course includes effective written, oral, and visual communication. Students are required to participate in class discussions; informal class presentations; creation of visual presentations; writing analytical papers, and research papers.

Social Responsibility: This course teaches intercultural competency and helps the students develop the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities. Students will accomplish these objectives by studying significant philosophers and their work; by writing about major issues and problems of philosophy, significant historical developments in philosophy, and the philosophical movements of different periods or regions; and by analyzing and synthesizing philosophical writings through class discussion, presentations, written assignments, and exams.

Personal Responsibility: Students will demonstrate the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making. They will accomplish this by submitting original work and using appropriate documentation and attribution when using another's words or ideas.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Plagiarism is defined as the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own written work. A student commits plagiarism by doing any of the following:

1. Failing to acknowledge the sources of any information in a paper which is not either common knowledge or personal knowledge. A student can acknowledge a source through in-text citations, attribution lines, footnotes, or other forms of documentation approved by the instructor. (Common knowledge is the basic information within a field or discipline, as well as most historical dates and facts, and many ordinary observations.)

2. Failing to acknowledge direct quotation either by using quotation marks or (for longer passages) indentation. Without the quotation marks or block indentation, passages copied directly from a source might be considered plagiarized even if followed by an in-text citation or a footnote. The citation or footnote acknowledges that there is a source, but it does not indicate that the writer has borrowed someone else's exact words. If a writer uses the language of a source, word-for word, he/she must use quotation marks or block indentation.

3. Merely paraphrasing the original words of the source. Some students think they can avoid a charge of plagiarism by changing a few words in each sentence they copy or by rearranging the shape of phrases or the order of sentences in a paragraph. This is

not true. When taking notes students must be careful to put ideas in their own words or to use direct quotations when relying on phrases directly borrowed from a source.

4. Borrowing the ideas, examples, or structure of the source without acknowledging it. A student can be guilty of plagiarism by systematically borrowing the ideas and organization of a source and/or by using exactly the same ideas in the same order as they appear in the sourced article.

5. Taking, buying, or receiving a paper written by someone else and presenting it as the one's own.

6. Using one paper for two different courses, or re-using a paper previously submitted for credit, without the prior approval of the instructor or instructors.

7. Submitting AI writing as one's own. Using AI to write one's work or to aid in writing one's work is strictly prohibited and will result in a zero. The only acceptable use of AI is when the instructor has instructed students to use AI or has given approval for a specific use of AI.

> **Plagiarism will result in a failing grade on that assignment. Continued plagiarism may result in an F for the course.**

COURSE POLICIES

COURSE SCHEDULE

EVALUATION OF STUDENTS

DROP / WITHDRAWAL

The student is responsible for initiating a drop or withdrawal, not the instructor. Student should check the MC College Calendar for the last day to withdraw from the course and receive a "W." Please talk to the instructor before withdrawing.

The instructor is not able to withdraw a student from the course after the census date. A student wishing to withdraw must fill out the **withdrawal form in MyMCPortal**.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Midland College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. For information and inquiries regarding Midland College's non-discrimination policies, go to:
Midland College Title IX Information
For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit the ED.gov Office of Civil Rights website, or call 1 (800) 421-3481.

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements to meet course requirements should contact disabilities support services as soon as possible at:
Midland College Accommodation Services
Conditions may include documented physical or educational disabilities. Please be aware that services or accommodations are not automatic. Each student must request them and secure the proper authorizations/documentation. Accessibility Links can be found on the Pages tab in Canvas.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor Name:	
Email:	
Office Location:	
Office Phone:	
Office Hours:	
Department Chair:	Dr. Brenton Cross
Division Dean, Fine Arts and Communications:	Dr. William Feeler
Secretary:	Ms. Lula Lee
Division Office:	135 AFA
Phone:	432-685-4624
Division Office hours:	8-5, Monday-Friday