

Syllabus

College of Arts and Humanities, PHIL 2030 sec.E01: Introduction to Ethics, Summer 2017

Class Meeting Time/Location	100% Online	westga email	<i>rlane@westga.edu</i> (for emergencies only; please use CourseDen's email function to contact me)
Instructor	Dr. Robert Lane	Videochat	You may email me in CourseDen to schedule an appointment for a videochat. For videochats, I use Google Hangouts: https://hangouts.google.com/

Support for courses

*Hyperlinks provided for accessibility, full URLs are available at the end of the document.

CourseDen D2L Home Page	Student Services
D2L UWG Online Help (8 AM – 5 PM) Call: 678-839-6248 or 1-855-933-8946 or email: online@westga.edu	Center for Academic Success 678-839-6280
24/7/365 D2L Help Center Call 1-855-772-0423	Distance Learning Library Services Ingram Library Services
University Bookstore	Accessibility Services 678-839-6428 counseling@westga.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

An introduction to the central concepts in ethics and an exploration of such contemporary ethical issues as abortion, genetic engineering, euthanasia, and capital punishment. Required for the major in Philosophy.

Required Texts [[University Bookstore: http://www.bookstore.westga.edu/](http://www.bookstore.westga.edu/)]

- *The Right Thing to Do: Basic Readings in Moral Philosophy* (7th ed., 2015), edited by James Rachels and Stuart Rachels
- *The Elements of Moral Philosophy* (8th ed., 2015), by James Rachels and Stuart Rachels

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, each student will be able to

- recognize and apply basic patterns of logical reasoning within ethical contexts;
- describe selected theories within meta-ethics and normative ethics, as well as selected arguments for and against those theories;
- describe positions and facts relevant to selected issues within applied ethics (such as abortion, physician-assisted suicide, capital punishment, world poverty, and animal rights);

- summarize the contributions of historically important figures (such as J. S. Mill and Immanuel Kant) to ethical thought;
- discuss the ethical theories and issues explored in the course.

These course-specific learning outcomes contribute to the departmental learning outcomes of the Philosophy Program by enabling students better to

- discuss the general historical development of the discipline of philosophy, including the views of at least three major historical figures of philosophy;
- incorporate a philosophical position in oral and written communications;
- critically outline and analyze philosophical issues;
- exhibit critical thinking skills.

Assignments

Assignment name	Description	Due Date	Points
Quizzes on Readings and Lecture Notes	Each quiz consists of 10 multiple choice questions. You will have 12 minutes to complete each quiz. One attempt per quiz. There is one quiz per Module [11 quizzes total with lowest grade dropped] 10 quizzes x 10 points each = 100 points	Due each week by Saturday night at 11:59pm EST (except during week 4) Week 1: Quizzes 1, 2, & 3 Week 2: Quizzes 4, 5, & 6 Week 3: Quizzes 7, 8 & 9 Week 4: Quizzes 10* & 11* *due Thursday July 20	100
Online Discussion: Post at least <i>three</i> responses in each week's discussion.	See each Discussion for instructions and the Discussion Grading Rubric for how you will be graded. 4 weeks x 25 points each = 100 points	Due each week by Saturday night at 11:59pm EST (except during week 4; those responses are due by 11:59pm Friday July 21)	100
Short Papers	Four short papers. See each Assignment Folder for instructions and the Grading Rubric for Short Papers for how you will be graded. 4 papers x 32 points each = 128 points	Due each week by 11:59pm EST on Sunday (except during week 4—that paper is due by 12pm noon on Saturday July 22)	128
TOTAL			328

Grading Information and Policy

Grading Structure and Point Scale

295 points - 328 points	90% - 100%	A
262 points - 294 points	80% - 89%	B
229 points - 261 points	70% - 79%	C
196 points - 228 points	60% - 69%	D
< 195 points	< 60%	F

You must score 100% on the [syllabus quiz](#) (located in the Orientation Module) before you can access the rest of the course – but you are allowed to take the syllabus quiz multiple times.

Grading Rubrics

[Online Discussion Rubric](#)

[Short Paper Rubric](#)

Please see the [Common Language for Course Syllabi](#) for official information on UWG's Academic Integrity Policy. I will enforce this policy.

Note the following, from UWG's Credit Hour Policy: "The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks." This means that for this four-week online course, you should plan to spend **at least 31.5 hours each week** doing work that is relevant to this class: reading, studying, taking quizzes, reading and posting on the discussion boards, and writing. **If you are not able to devote that much time to this class, you should seriously considering dropping the course.**

Communication Rules

Email and Videochat

- You may email me with any questions or concerns. **To send email to me, use the email system that is WITHIN CourseDen.** Do not send email to my UWG account unless it is an emergency or you cannot access CourseDen. NEVER email me from a non-UWG account; UWG policy prohibits me from responding to student emails that come from non-UWG accounts.
- I will return all emails within 24 hours (usually much more quickly than that) during the week and within 48 hours over the weekends.
- I will use **Google Hangouts** (integrated into your UWG email account) for videochats. Just login to your Google account, go to Hangouts (<https://hangouts.google.com/>) and send a message to **rlane@westga.edu**. Note that **I am not allowed to discuss grades that you have earned over Google Hangouts.** If you have a question about a grade you have earned on a specific assignment, please email me through CourseDen.
- **I will usually be available for videochat appointments seven days a week. To make an appointment to chat, please email a day ahead of time if possible.** However, feel free to pop in (online) to ask a question whenever you see that I am online.
- **I am also available for telephone conversations** if you prefer that to videochatting. Just email me to set up an appointment for a phone conversation.

Online Etiquette. Communication in an online class takes special consideration. I expect you to follow all of the following tips.

- Be sensitive to and reflective about what others are saying.
- Don't use all caps. It is the equivalent of screaming.
- Don't flame - These are outbursts of extreme emotion or opinion.
- Think before you hit the post (enter/reply) button. You can't take it back!
- Don't use offensive language.
- Use clear subject lines.
- Don't use abbreviations or acronyms unless the entire class knows them.
- Be forgiving. Anyone can make a mistake.
- Keep the dialogue collegial and professional.

Expected Response Times to Online Discussions, Short Papers and Quizzes. I will be in the online discussion at least once per day on weekdays, but I will also check in once during the weekend. Online discussions will be graded within 3 days of the due date and will contain feedback on what you did well and what you can do to improve. Short papers will be graded within 3 days of the due date. Quizzes are graded automatically.

Late Work Policy

- **There are no extensions for quizzes—all quizzes must be completed by the due date, no exceptions.**
- There are no extensions for online discussions – each week's online discussion closes Saturday night at 11:59pm (except week 4's, which closes Friday night at 11:59pm) and no late submissions will be allowed.
- Each of the first three short papers will be accepted late with a 20% penalty per day late. The final short paper is due on Saturday 7/22 at 12pm EST. **No final short paper received after that time will be accepted.**

Expectations of Students

- **You must be willing to devote about 31.5 hours each week to doing work for this course:** reading the assignments from your textbooks, studying the online lecture notes, watching the optional videos (if you choose to do so), contributing to the message boards, and writing short papers.
- **You must stay on top of the schedule of work for this course and be aware of all deadlines.**
- The **textbooks and lecture notes** are essential elements of the course. You must study that material just as you would study for a regular, in-person class, before taking the online quizzes that cover that material. The online quizzes will not cover the **optional videos**, but you may integrate information from the videos into your discussion board posts and your short papers.
- The **online discussions** are a central part of this course where we will explore the concepts introduced in the reading assignments and lecture notes. The online discussions will involve active learning in which you will apply what you have been learning in original ways and in response to your peers. You are required to make at least three substantial contributions in each online discussion and to read the posts of your peers and your professor. The [grading rubric](#) for the online discussions are found in the Start Here module.

Course and UWG Policies

Attendance Policy: In order to distribute Title IV funding (federal student aid), student attendance verification is required. For this online class, students are required to post in the Week 1 online discussion **by no later than 11:59pm on Thursday June 29** to be considered as attending class. Students who do not do so may be dropped from the class for non-attendance. Students who add classes during drop/add are responsible for ensuring that they are verified as being in attendance by contacting the course instructor and participating in the online discussion.

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement: If you are a student who is disabled as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act and require assistance or support services, please seek assistance through the [Center for Disability](#). UWG also provides [Accessibility Statements for Technology](#) that you may be required to use for this course.

For more information on the Americans with Disabilities Act, UWG Email, Credit Hour, and UWG Honor Code policies as well as information on Academic Tutoring, Student Services, and Technical Requirements, Privacy Policy, and Accessibility Statements, please see the [Common Language for Syllabus](#) document.

I strongly recommend that students make an electronic copy of everything submitted to me via the Assignment folders.

Additional Support Information

Center for Academic Success

The new [Center for Academic Success](#) (CAS) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. The CAS offers free appointment-based peer tutoring in core courses, as well as supplemental instruction (SI)—which is peer-facilitated collaborative learning—in a variety of disciplines. Students seeking help with study skills and strategies can attend workshops through the Academic Success Workshop series, or work individually with either a staff or peer Academic Coach. Beginning Fall 2014, the CAS will also offer “Back on Track,” a voluntary academic recovery program designed for students who want to improve their grades and academic standing. The Center for Academic Success is located in UCC 200, and can be reached at [678-839-6280](tel:678-839-6280). Our email address is cas@westga.edu.

Smarthinking

Smarthinking offers online tutoring services and resources (including the Writing Center) for UWG students/instructors in all courses. For instructions for accessing this service, please see **Smarthinking: Online Tutoring Services** in the **Student Services** folder of the **Orientation Module**.

Class Schedule Summary (See Full [Course Schedule](#) for Details)

Week	Begin Date	End Date	Topic/Activity/Reading Assignment	Assignment Name & Due Date**
1	6/27/17	7/2/17	<p>Start Here Module, Online Introductions</p> <p><u>Module 1: Ethics & Ethical Arguments</u> Read: RTD ch.2, EMP ch.1 Study: Lecture Notes #1 Watch: 2 videos (optional) "Validity" "Soundness"</p> <p><u>Module 2: Cultural Relativism</u> Read: EMP ch.2; RTD ch.32 Study: Lecture Notes #2 Watch: 3 videos (optional) CNN interview w/Ruby Jessup "Letter from Birmingham Jail" CNN interview w/excision victims</p> <p><u>Module 3: Morality and Religion</u> Read: EMP ch.4 (secs.1, 2 and 4 only) Study: Lecture Notes #3 Watch: 1 video (optional) "Morality Comes from God"</p>	<p>June 27: Open drop/add, available on Banweb until midnight.</p> <p>Syllabus Quiz: you must complete this quiz before accessing the rest of the course</p> <p>Module 1: Quiz #1: due Sat. 7/1/17</p> <p>Module 2: Quiz #2: due Sat. 7/1/17</p> <p>Module 3: Quiz #3: due Sat. 7/1/17</p> <p>Modules 1, 2 and 3: 1 Discussion Post: due Thu. 6/29/17 (for max credit, Weds. 6/28/17) 2 Further Posts: due Sat. 7/1/17 Students MUST post in the Week 1 online discussion by no later than 11:59pm on Thu. June 29. Students who do not do so may be dropped for non-attendance.</p> <p>Modules 1, 2 and 3: 1 Short Paper: due Sun. 7/2/17</p>

Week	Begin Date	End Date	Topic/Activity/Reading Assignment	Assignment Name & Due Date**
2	7/3/17	7/9/16	<p><u>Module 4: Utilitarianism & Euthanasia</u> Read: EMP ch.7, RTD ch.37 Study: Lecture Notes #4 Watch: 4 videos (optional): Wi-Phi: Utilitarianism Pt.1 Retro Report: Terri Schiavo CBS: Interview w/B. Maynard PBS: Active Euthanasia in Belgium</p> <p><u>Module 5: Utilitarianism & World Poverty</u> Read: EMP ch.8 (secs 8.1 and 8.2 only); RTD ch.5; RTD ch.18 Study: Lecture Notes #5 Watch: 3 videos (optional):</p>	<p>Module 4: Quiz #4: due Sat. 7/8/17</p> <p>Module 5: Quiz #5: due Sat. 7/8/17</p> <p>Module 6: Quiz #6: due Sat. 7/8/17</p> <p>Modules 4, 5 and 6: 1 Discussion Post: due Thu. 7/6/17 (for max credit, Weds. 7/5/17) 2 Further Posts: due Sat. 7/8/17</p> <p>Modules 4, 5 and 6:</p>

Week	Begin Date	End Date	Topic/Activity/Reading Assignment	Assignment Name & Due Date**
			Wi-Phi: Hedonism & the Experience Machine 60 Minutes: interview with Peter Singer TED Talk: Peter Singer <u>Module 6: Utilitarianism & Animals</u> Read: RTD ch.15 & ch.16 Study: Lecture Notes #6 Watch: 3 videos (optional): Cruelty to Hens Live Fast Die Young Singer on Animal Rights and Vegetarianism	1 Short Paper: due Sun. 7/9/17 July 7: Last day to withdraw with a "W" grade ends at midnight. Students withdrawing after midnight will receive a grade of WF. IMPORTANT: CourseDen will be down for maintenance and unavailable from 10pm EST on Friday July 7 to 7am EST on Saturday July 8 EST. Please plan your work schedule accordingly.

Week	Begin Date	End Date	Topic/Activity/Reading Assignment	Assignment Name & Due Date**
3	7/10/17	7/16/17	<u>Module 7: Kant and Absolute Rules</u> Read: EMP ch.9, RTD ch.8 Study: Lecture Notes #7 Watch: 2 videos (optional): The Good Life: Kant Kant's Axe <u>Module 8: Kant and Respect for Persons</u> Read: EMP ch.10 Study: Lecture Notes #8 <u>Module 9: Capital Punishment</u> Read: RTD ch.20 and ch.21 Study: Lecture Notes #9 Watch: 3 videos (optional): Stephen Bright on Indigent Defense ABC News: Anthony Ray Hinton release from death row NBC News: Troy Davis execution	Module 7: Quiz #7: due Sat. 7/15/17 Module 8: Quiz #8: due Sat. 7/15/17 Module 9: Quiz #9: due Sat. 7/15/17 Modules 7, 8 and 9: 1 Discussion Post: due Thu. 7/13/17 (for max credit, Weds. 7/12/17) 2 Further Posts: due Sat. 7/15/17 Modules 7, 8 and 9: 1 Short Paper: due Sun. 7/16/17

Week	Begin Date	End Date	Topic/Activity/Reading Assignment	Assignment Name & Due Date**
4	7/17/17	7/22/16	<u>Module 10: Abortion: Pro-Life</u> Read: RTD ch.13 Study: Lecture Notes #10	Module 10: Quiz #10: due Thu. 7/20/17

Week	Begin Date	End Date	Topic/Activity/Reading Assignment	Assignment Name & Due Date**
			Module 11: Abortion: Pro-Choice Read: RTD ch.14 Study: Lecture Notes #11 Watch: 2 videos (optional): The Violinist The People Seeds	Module 11: Quiz #11: due Thu. 7/20/17 Modules 10 and 11: 1 Discussion Post: due Wed. 7/19/17 2 Further Posts: due Fri. 7/21/17 Modules 10 and 11: 1 Short Paper: due Sat. 7/22/17 by 12pm EST. IMPORTANT: CourseDen will be down for maintenance and unavailable from midnight until 7am on Saturday June 22. Please plan your work schedule accordingly.
**Note: All times are EST. Dates may change at the instructor's discretion: all changes will be posted in the News/Announcements section of CourseDen.				

Student Services

Here is a great resource of [Student Services](#) for all students at UWG, whether or not they are taking online courses. This link provides students with most of the information they need. If a student is experiencing distress and needs some help, check out [UWG Cares](#).

Full URL Support for Courses

CourseDen D2L Home Page https://westga.view.usg.edu/	Student Services http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php
D2L UWG Online Help (8 AM – 5 PM) http://uwgonline.westga.edu/students.php Call: 678-839-6248 or 1-855-933-8946 or email: online@westga.edu	Center for Academic Success http://www.westga.edu/cas/ 678-839-6280
24/7/365 D2L Help Center Call 1-855-772-0423 or search: https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/	Distance Learning Library Services http://libguides.westga.edu/content.php?pid=194430
University Bookstore http://www.bookstore.westga.edu/	Ingram Library Services http://www.westga.edu/library/
Common Language for Course Syllabi http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/CommonLanguageforCourseSyllabi.pdf	Proctored Exams http://uwgonline.westga.edu/exams.php#student
UWG Cares http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/	Student Services https://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php

Center for Disability

<https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php>

UWG Accessibility Statements for Technology

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/16Ri1XgaXiGx28ooO-zRvYPraV3Aq3F5ZNJYbVDGVnEA/edit?ts=57b4c82d#heading=h.yrqeffvts1f>