

St. Petersburg College
Department of Applied Ethics
College of Policy, Ethics and Legal Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS

PHI 1600
Studies in Applied Ethics Section 1661
Spring 2023 – Study Abroad

INSTRUCTOR:

Name: Dave Monroe

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Office Hours: Via Zoom. M&W: 9-12, W: 6-7 p.m.; T/Th: 12:30-3:30

Office Location: SEM LI 263 but office hours on Zoom

Instructor Web Page: http://it.spcollege.edu/course_info/inquiry.cfm?number=1061

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT:

Applied Ethics Institute

Dean: Susan Demers

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COURSE INFORMATION:

The course information includes C&I Committee approved Course Description, Major Learning Outcomes and Course Objectives.

Course Description:

Studies in Applied Ethics is an opportunity for SPC students to develop valuable critical thinking and moral reasoning skills that will serve them well not only in any future career, but also in their daily lives. The class is a practical overview of foundational concepts, questions, and issues in applied ethics. Special emphases are placed on practicing critical thinking and understanding central ethical ideas in both historical and contemporary ethical theories. Students will have the chance to examine a number of personal, social, and professional ethical issues; such issues may include conflicts of interest, academic integrity, ethical issues about the environment, problems in developing or emerging technologies, end-of-life decision-making (e.g., euthanasia), economic inequality, among many others. Some sections of PHI 1600 may have a more focused topic; these sections involve a closer examination of ethical problems in those topic areas. Special topic courses are available in health care, business, public safety, environmental, and sports ethics. Sections with special topics still satisfy the applied ethics general education requirement. Students will enjoy an active learning experience, increased student interaction and opportunities for independent thinking and research into ethical issues of personal interest. This course partially satisfies the writing requirements outlined in the General Education Requirements and meets the College's general

education requirements for applied ethics (Note: Credit is not given for both PHI 1600 and any of the following courses: PHI 1603, PHI 1602H, PHI 1631, PHI 2621, PHI 2622, PHI 2635, or PHI 2649. Study Abroad opportunities may apply to this course).

Learning Outcomes and Objectives:

1. The student will compare historical developments in ethical thinking, from ancient to contemporary philosophers by:
 - a. defining central ethical terms.
 - b. describing major historical and contemporary theories of ethics.
2. The student will identify and analyze a variety of ethical issues when presented with examples by:
 - a. distinguishing between moral and non-moral issues.
 - b. classifying personal, social, and professional ethical issues.
 - c. evaluating various perspectives regarding personal, social and professional ethical issues.
3. The student will analyze diversity in ethics by:
 - a. identifying diverse social values.
 - b. differentiating between examples of ethical and unethical behavior within societies.
 - c. evaluating the effect of ethical conduct on the individual and society.
4. The student will apply critical thinking skills and ethical principles to resolve ethical issues by:
 - a. describing and applying methods of ethical decision-making.
 - b. settling ethical dilemmas found in personal, social, and professional life by using philosophical principles.
 - c. describing the distinguishing characteristics and emphases of a variety of professional codes of ethics and applying codes of ethics relating to their fields of interest to ethical issues in contemporary professional life.
5. The student will assess academic integrity by:
 - a. articulating the significance of proper academic practices to personal learning and educational value and fairness.
 - b. identifying different types of academic misconduct.
 - c. explaining the difference between legitimate academic practices and academic misconduct

Further information about the course:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health concerns, this class will meet in a modified fashion to help minimize risk to students and other members of the SPC community. Although this is a “face to face” course, the class is smaller in size. The purpose is to enable social distancing in the classroom space. Furthermore, **mask wearing is required at all times in the classroom.** Students who are unable or unwilling to wear masks will be able to complete the class online. Furthermore, all work will be completed through MyCourses. As such, it is very important that you have access to working computers and Internet connections. Please notify me immediately if you need assistance with these things—the college may be able to assist.

This course uses **Turnitin drop boxes** for submitting papers.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK & OTHER RESOURCE INFORMATION:

Required Textbook:

This class requires the purchase of *The Moral Compass: An Introductory Guide to Critical Thinking and Applied Ethics*. McGraw-Hill, 2020.

ISBN 10: 1264176821

ISBN 13: 9781264176823

The Moral Compass is an E-BOOK embedded within the MyCourses page for your ethics class. Furthermore, it is part of the Barnes & Noble “First Day” program, which means you will have access to the textbook directly through MyCourses and do not need to “go” anywhere to buy it. The charge for the book is automatically added to your student account. (Financial aid will cover it).

Step-by-step instructions for how to access the textbook are in the “Start Here” module in MyCourses.

If you would prefer a hard copy of the book you may purchase a printed edition through the McGraw Hill Connect platform. A hard copy will be printed and mailed to you directly from McGraw. The cost of the hard copy is an additional \$20. First you must register your access card information.

A note about the book: SPC has published its own ethics textbook for nearly thirty years. The authors (myself included) do not receive royalties on purchased copies. Purchasing the book does not directly benefit any SPC faculty or staff—the royalties are paid to the College itself. As part of this arrangement, the royalties generated by the SPC ethics textbook are used to fund student trips, teams, study materials, scholarships, and other activities that contribute to SPC student success.

Library: <http://go.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/>.

MEETING INFORMATION:

Time: TBD

Location: TBD

Be advised that this section may be moved online in case of an exposure or outbreak of COVID-19 in the class. Each of us, and the college as a whole, has a moral responsibility to safeguard the health of students, faculty, and staff, as well as their friends, family, and wider community. Therefore, **if there is an outbreak, the class will be taught online for the remainder of the term.** If you feel ill or show **any** symptoms of illness, DO NOT come to campus and let your instructors know immediately.

If we move online, class will still meet at the normal time but will be held via Zoom. It would be wise to obtain a microphone and camera for your computer if you don’t have one. If you don’t have a computer, mic, or camera, please let me know. The college may have some you can borrow if we’re moved online.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Course Dates: TBD
Drop with Refund: TBD
Withdrawal Date (60% point): TBD
College Closed/Holidays:

Other important dates will be listed on the MyCourses calendar.

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC INFORMATION:

You will need to understand and be able to use MyCourses Learning Management System. Be sure to **start the course by doing the Introduction to MyCourses** linked in the Course Content area for the course so that you understand how the system works.

This course is laid out by “modules” under the Course Content in the MyCourses page. Chapter modules will contain lessons, assigned readings, notes, video resources, and assignments to complete. Other modules will contain assignments & drop boxes (e.g., the Critical Thinking Paper). Modules are ordered sequentially according to due dates. Begin with the “Start Here” module.

ATTENDANCE:

The college-wide attendance policy is included in the Syllabus Addendum: <https://www.spcollege.edu/current-students/student-affairs/student-right-to-know/student-responsibilities> The policy notes that each instructor is to exercise professional judgment and define “active participation” in class (and therefore “attendance”) and publish that definition in each syllabus. **If you have four or more unexcused absences by the 60% point of the semester you will not have satisfied my criterion for "active participation", and I will recommend you receive a grade of WF for the course.**

Absences may be excused and will not count against you if a.) you notify me in advance, or b.) let me know that you have been ill (you do not need to disclose specifics), or c.) can document a non-health-related emergency (e.g., your car broke down, etc.) Again, excused absences don’t count against your active participation.

DO NOT COME TO CLASS IF YOU FEEL AT ALL ILL. I will work with you to ensure that you can complete lessons and access lectures if you can’t attend.

GRADING:

PHI 1600 is a general education requirement at SPC, and therefore involves a substantial writing requirement. That means this course requires students to demonstrate college-level writing skills through multiple assignments. **In order to pass PHI 1600 and fulfill the general education requirements for Ethics, you must (a) submit at least 2,000 words of written work and (b) achieve a final grade of C or better in PHI 1600**

Your final grade in this class will be based on the points you earn on assignments, papers, and exams. There are a total of 100 points available for the semester. The final grades will be determined as follows:

A = 100% - 90%	90-100 pts.	STUDENTS MUST EARN 70% OR HIGHER
B = 89% - 80%	80-89 pts.	
C = 79% - 70%	70-79 pts.	
D = 69% - 60%	60-69 pts.	
F = 59% and below	0-59 pts.	

This chart will allow you to keep tabs on your grade as the semester unfolds, or you can check your progress on MyCourses. Keep in mind that the scale figures total points out of 100, so the MyCourses report will not be fully accurate until the end of the term.

A note on due dates: Due dates for all assignments are posted on our MyCourses calendar, so be sure to check it frequently. **Do your best to complete your assignments by the due dates.** Under normal circumstances, I do not accept late work. However, nothing about our current circumstances are “normal.” As a result, **I will accept late work without penalty until April 25th.** However, it is in your best interest to keep up if possible—don’t fall behind!

ASSIGNMENTS:

Regular Assignments

1. Quizzes: 5 pts. Each, 25 pts total.

For five key chapters, you will have a short quiz worth five points towards your final grade. The quizzes are timed, but you may use your books and notes. You may not collude (work together) on the quizzes.

3. Critical Thinking Papers: 40 pts

Each student will write five papers using the Critical Thinking Model from Chapter 4. The first four papers are relatively short, using only one or two steps of the process. Each of the short papers is worth five points. The fifth paper is a major assignment and will use almost the entire series of steps. It is worth 20 points.

The five critical thinking papers constitute the required number of written words for the course (2000)—students must submit the major critical thinking paper or they will not be eligible to pass the class.

4. Code of Ethics Evaluation Assignment: 15 pts.

You will complete a short paper or do a brief video presentation about a code of ethics relevant to your career path. Precise instructions can be found in the Chapter 12 Module under the Course Content on MyCourses.

5. Ethical Life Project: 10 pts.

Throughout this course we will discuss the lives of some pretty impressive people, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Gandhi, Mother Theresa, Socrates, and many others. No one is morally perfect, but all of these people strove to be ethical and to contribute to their communities. The “Ethical Life” project will ask you to reflect on ways that you might make a moral impact in the lives of those around you. Detailed instructions and the due date are posted in MyCourses.

6. Final Exam: 10 pts.

There will be a cumulative, multiple-choice, closed book and note, proctored Honorlock final exam.

****If no one in this class cheats (is academically dishonest in any way), the final exam will not be proctored and will be open-book/note.*

Extra Credit Assignments

1. Pre-Survey: 1 pt. extra credit

Please complete this short survey. Every student must complete this the first week of class. You will receive a confirmation message upon completion; highlight this message, right click with your mouse, and copy the message. To finish the assignment, paste (right click, select paste) the confirmation message into a Microsoft Word document. Upload the confirmation message document into the MyCourses drop box. Click submit. If the link embedded in MyCourses does not work, you can find the pre-survey link here:

http://go.spcollege.edu/Ethics_for_Students/#tab=6

The survey is “Student Questionnaire XXX-A”

2. Post-Survey: 1 pt. extra credit

Please also complete the post-survey the week before Finals. The process is identical to the pre-survey. The survey is “Student Questionnaire XXX-B”

3. Extra Credit Review Questions (1 pt. each assignment, total of 6 pts. for all):

You can find extra credit assignments in some of the chapter modules in the Content area of MyCourses. The collection of these extra credit assignments (however many you see fit to do) are due by the date posted on the MyCourses calendar.

5. General Extra Credit (undefined): There will be a number of other extra credit opportunities this semester involving out of class activities. Successful students in past semesters have taken advantage of these opportunities and it has helped them conquer this course. Points are based on the time commitment involved.

Extra Credit Assignments

1. ***Pre-Survey:*** 2 pts. extra credit

Please complete this short survey. Every student must complete this the first week of class. You will receive a confirmation message upon completion; highlight this message, right click with your mouse, and copy the message. To finish the assignment, paste (right click, select paste) the confirmation message into a Word document. Upload the confirmation document into the drop box.

2. ***Post-Survey:*** 2 pts. extra credit

Please also complete the post-survey at the end of the semester. The process is identical to the pre-survey.

3. ***Extra Credit Chapter Review Questions:*** 2 pts. each, 20 pts. Total

Ten of the unit folders will have a drop box for chapter review questions. Submission of the review questions is optional, but I will award 2 pt. of extra credit for each unit’s completed review questions. All of the review questions for a given chapter must be completed; extra credit is awarded for completion. The extra credit questions are due at the end of the semester on the date listed in the MyCourses calendar.

STUDENTS’ EXPECTATIONS AND INSTRUCTOR’S EXPECTATIONS

This course may involve thinking about and discussing some controversial topics. As such, the rules of this course aim to facilitate learning the course material, generate an atmosphere of respect for peers, and make a good forum for discussing arguments. I expect you to observe these rules at all times, including in any online communication. I will also honor these rules as your instructor.

Rule #1: Everyone in class will wear a mask in the classroom at all times. NO EXCEPTIONS. Students who cannot wear a mask will be permitted to participate exclusively online.

Rule #2: Everyone will maintain appropriate social distancing (at least 6 ft.) at all times while on campus. That includes public spaces like the hallway outside of class and the restrooms, etc.

Any student who cannot or will not follow rules 1 & 2 will not be permitted to attend face-to-face lectures and must complete the course online.

Rule #3: Treat your classmates with respect. Insulting or otherwise disrespecting your classmates is intolerable. If you mistreat a classmate, I may remove you from course and pursue further discipline. Many of us have divergent viewpoints on a range of issues, and as this is a class on ethics, each person should feel safe to express and defend his or her position.

Rule #4: Expectation of Academic Honesty. To put it plainly, this is an ethics course and cheating of any kind **WILL NOT** be tolerated; **i.e., cheating of ANY KIND will result in a grade of F for the course.** The severity of the offense is irrelevant. It is your responsibility to be familiar with SPC's policies, rules, and the consequences of violations. A link to the college policy can be found at the following link:
<https://www.spcollege.edu/current-students/student-affairs/student-right-to-know/student-responsibilities>

Online Student, Faculty and Staff Expectations and Performance Targets

This spells out the parameters of what you can expect from me regarding grading times, communication, and so forth. I will respond to all emails within 24 hours Monday through Friday and within 48 hours on the weekends. Grading normal unit work will occur within a week of completion; longer papers will require more time. You can expect relatively quick turnaround on most grading.

STUDENT SURVEY OF INSTRUCTION:

The student survey of instruction is administered in courses each semester. It is designed to improve the quality of instruction at St. Petersburg College. All student responses are confidential and anonymous and will be used solely for the purpose of performance improvement.

SCHEDULED TOPICS

The MyCourses Lessons (modules) arranged in sequential order; that is, we will start at the “top” and work our way down. The Calendar lists due dates and other important information. This area of the syllabus simply outlines the subjects studied and the order of the material. The instructor reserves the right to adjust pacing as needed.

Week One: Syllabus, Course Orientation. Chapter 1 of *The Moral Compass*

Week Two: Chapter 2: Terminology and Academic Honesty

Week Three: Chapter 4: Critical Thinking

Week Four: Chapter 5: Consequentialist Ethical Theories (Egoism, Utilitarianism)

Week Five: Chapter 6: Non-Consequentialist Ethical Theories (Virtue Ethics, Natural Law)

Week Six: Chapter 7: Non-Consequentialist Theories (Natural Rights, Deontology, Contractarianism)

Week Seven: Critical Thinking Paper, Non-Anthropocentric Ethical Theories

Week Eight: Chapter 12: Codes of Ethics

SPRING BREAK * UK STUDY ABROAD *

Week Nine: Chapter 13: Government Ethics

Week Ten: Chapter 14: Economic Justice

Week Eleven: Chapter 23: The Earth and Other Living Things

Week Twelve: Chapter 21: Technology, Humanity, and Ethics

Week 13: Class choice

Week 14: Class choice

Week 15: Final Exam