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

COURSE SYLLABUS

PHI 1600
Studies in Applied Ethics
Study Abroad, England
Live Online
0640– Spring 2025

INSTRUCTOR:
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ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT:
Applied Ethics Institute

Dean: Dr. 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:

Since this is a LIVE ONLINE class, we will use MyCourses for communication, assignment submission, and other business. Class meetings will take place in Zoom. You will need to download and be able to work with that platform. I have a link to Zoom and instructions for how to use it in the Virtual Classroom module.

This section is also "Blended," which means that we'll meet once a week on Zoom and you'll complete your other work remotely, like an online class.

This course uses Turnitin.com drop boxes for 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.* *2nd. Ed.* McGraw-Hill, 2022.
ISBN: 1265655006

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 and you CAN opt out of the automatic purchase).

Step-by-step instructions for how to access the textbook are in the "Start Here" module in the Course Content area of MyCourses.

If you would prefer a hard copy of the book, you may purchase a printed edition through the McGraw-Hill Connect widget. A hard copy will be printed and mailed to you directly from the publisher. The cost of a hard copy is an additional $20.

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 the purchased copies. Buying 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 are used to fund student trips, teams, study materials, scholarships, and other activities that contribute to SPC student success.

MEETING INFORMATION:
Course Location: LIVE ONLINE, ZOOM
Meeting Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays
Class Times: 12-1:15 p.m.

IMPORTANT DATES:
Course Dates: 1/13-5/9/25
Drop with Refund: TBA
Withdrawal Deadline (70% point): TBA
College Closed/Holidays: 1/20, 3/9-3/15
Financial Aid: http://go.spcollege.edu/fadates/

Dates for Trip to London: 5/9-5/15/2025

LIVE ONLINE MEETING MODALITY
We will rely upon MyCourses heavily. If you are unfamiliar with MyCourses, log on by going to mycourses.spcollege.edu, or by clicking the link for MyCourses on your MySPC page. Enter your student number/username and password (which should be the same as the one for your college email account). Start by browsing the site, making sure to do the Introduction to MyCourses you'll find in the "Start Here" module in the Course Content area.

You will find units, including assignments, lecture notes, drop boxes for work, etc., under Course Content. Due dates and the course scheduling, including the readings, are listed in the Calendar. Other important college dates will be listed there as well.

I will also try to post supplemental links and interesting online content periodically, including primary sources, etc. If you would like to dig deeper into philosophical literature, please let me know and I'm happy to point you in the direction of all sorts of goodies.

You will also need to use Zoom. Our class meetings will occur in Zoom rooms, so it is imperative that you are able to access that program and log into our virtual classroom. Instructions for downloading and using Zoom can be found in the "Our Virtual Classroom" module in MyCourses. We will have a set recurring meeting schedule; the link to the room will be found in the Virtual Classroom module as well. *Please be advised that I will record the Zoom sessions and upload them for later review.*

I ask that you use a webcam and microphone when you participate in the class. Please keep your camera ON unless there is an environmental issue (i.e., disruptive construction workers in the background, etc.) that makes it too problematic. It makes things more engaging and fun. We'll also sometimes have group discussions and having the right tech makes it much easier. Please let me know if you don't have them and I can see about resources the college may have to help.

Please keep your microphone MUTED unless you are currently talking/engaged in the discussion. Too much background noise ruins the engagement and fun.

Here's a student Zoom Tutorial:
https://mycoursessupport.spcollege.edu/mycourses/zoom/accessing-a-zoom-meeting-with-authentication-enabled

If you require tech support, here's who to contact:
SPC Technology Help Desk: (727) 341-4357
Zoom Support: https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us
MyCourses Support: https://mycoursessupport.spcollege.edu/mycourses-support

ATTENDANCE:
The college-wide attendance policy is included in the Syllabus Addendum
http://go.spcollege.edu/addendum 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. **For this class, attendance is defined as showing up on time and ready to participate. If you have more than three unexcused absences by the 70% point of the semester (the last day to withdraw), you will not have satisfied my criterion for "active participation," and I will recommend you receive a grade of W for the course.**

Note: Submission of discussion forums counts as "attendance" for the online portion of class.

If you reach your third unexcused absence **after** the 70% point, **you will not be eligible for ANY extra credit.**

Absences may be excused with documentation of an emergency or arrangements made with me prior to the missed class period. Unless those prior arrangements are made or documentation is provided, I will not excuse absences after the fact.

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 150 points available for the semester. The final grades will be determined as follows:

A = 100% - 90%   135-150 pts.
B = 89% - 80%   120-134.5 pts.
C = 79% - 70%   105-119.5 pts.   STUDENTS MUST EARN 70% OR HIGHER
D = 69% - 60%   90-104.5 pts.
F = 59% and below   0-89.5 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 150, 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.** Life is complicated and sometimes managing your schoolwork can be a struggle. I understand that. So I will accept late work. The late work policy is below.

Late work policy:
In cases of *documented* **emergency** (sudden illness, a death in the family), I will accept late work **without penalty** until **April 27th.** Students will be required to provide documentation to show that a genuine emergency has occurred (e.g., doctor's note.)

In all other cases, students may turn in late work until **April 27th.** However, the maximum grade one can earn **decreases 5% per week**. So, a paper that is two weeks late could earn 90%, three weeks late, 85%, and so on.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Regular Assignments

1. *Module Discussion Forums* 50 pts. (5 pts. each):
You will be required to do discussion forum posts in each lesson. The discussion forums are found in the chapter modules in MyCourses, or via the "Discussion" area of the content menu. **You must post for each module (as they are both assignments and my measure of attendance).** When you post on the forum, attend to the following instructions:

A. You will **not** be able to view other students' posts before you initially submit yours. Your post should be a response to the discussion prompt and represent your rational thoughts on the issue presented.

B. Once you have posted, you must also respond to **at least one** other student's post. The response should be thoughtful and worthy of consideration—"nice post, dude!" and other such congratulatory affirmations **will not count** as a response. If you disagree with a classmate, give reasons why. Debate is healthy and stimulates intellectual growth. If you agree with a classmate, give suggestions for taking his or her thinking further or in new directions. If you are the first to post in a given unit, you will have to return to the forum in order to respond to a classmate.

C. Be advised that **all** posts should be courteous and respectful. Name-calling, rude, threatening, or harassing posts will result in swift and merciless punishment ranging from a failing grade on the post to dismissal from the course.

D. Each primary post should be **at least 200 words** and your response to a classmate must be at least **50 words.**

E. **Using outside research on discussion posts is strictly forbidden.** Your responses should include only your own original thinking. Posts that draw on outside sources will be penalized.

F. Discussions are graded according to length, thoughtfulness, and clarity. This is not a chat room or blog, so I expect full grammatical sentences. No Internet shorthand!

2. Quizzes: 5 pts. Each, 20 pts total.
For four key modules, 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: 50 pts
Each student will write five papers using the Critical Thinking Model from Chapter 4. Each paper will focus on using one or two steps of the problem-solving process. Each of the papers is worth ten points.

The five critical thinking papers constitute the required number of written words for the course (2000)—students must submit at least 2000 words in order to be eligible to pass the class.

4. Code of Ethics Evaluation Assignment: 10 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. Government Ethics Article Summary: 10 pts.
 Students will find and review a recent article focused on ethical issues in government. More specific instructions are in the relevant MyCourses module.

6. Final Exam: 10 pts.
There will be a cumulative, multiple-choice, open book and note, final exam.

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 5 pts for all:
You can find extra credit assignments in a module in the Content area of MyCourses. The collection of these extra assignments (however many you see fit to do) are due by the date posted on the MyCourses Calendar. Normally, this is the last Sunday of the regular semester. Note—you only have to do the "Review" questions from the chapters, not the Analysis or Reflection questions.

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, generating an atmosphere of respect for peers, and creating a good forum for discussing arguments. I expect you to observe these rules at all times, including in any Zoom meeting or online communication. I will also honor these rules as your instructor.

Rule #1: Treat your classmates with respect. Insulting, shouting at, or otherwise disrespecting your classmates is intolerable. If you mistreat a classmate, I will remove you from the virtual classroom and pursue further discipline with the Associate Provost. Many of us have divergent viewpoints on a range of issues, and as this is a class on ethics, everyone should feel safe to express and defend their position.

Rule #2: Be mindful of causing distractions in the virtual classroom environment.
Please keep your microphone muted unless you are the one asking questions or leading discussion.

If you have a question, please either write your question in the chat or "raise" your virtual hand. Please don't just start talking—if more than one person talks at a time the noise makes nonsense of what you're saying.

Please be conscientious about your setting. At this point we've all experienced some weird thing happening on Zoom. They can be very distracting, so do your best to set up in an environment that won't involve undue disruptions.

Rule #3: Students are responsible to know the pace of the course and to arrange for materials if they miss class. It's on YOU to know what we're covering and to keep up.

If you miss a class, don't worry—our Zoom meetings will be recorded, captioned, and uploaded in the appropriate modules.

Rule #4: Expectation of Academic Honesty. To put it plainly, this is an ethics course and cheating of any kind cannot be tolerated; i.e., **cheating of any kind will result in a grade of "F" for the course.** This includes the use of generative AI, such as ChatGPT, to do your work. 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

To promote academic integrity, you will be asked to submit your papers in Turnitin.com drop boxes.

Rule #5: Check and read your email regularly. I will post announcements via email and the News area on MyCourses at various intervals of the semester. These may consist of emergency updates, changes to what we're doing in class or to assignment due dates, additional extra credit opportunities, or other things it would be important to know. You are responsible to read those messages and know what's going on. So, check your email regularly.

Online Student, Faculty and Staff Expectations and Performance Targets

This spells out the parameters of what you can expect from me regarding grading times, etc.

I tend to be very quick to respond to emails and messages. I promise that I will answer emails within 24 hours on weekdays and within 48 hours over the weekends. I also promise to grade your work promptly. Generally speaking, you can expect **very** quick turnarounds on grades—usually within two days following the due date.

When your assignments are graded, I will update the MyCourses grades so you will **always** know where you stand.

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.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS:

This is a schedule of the order in which we'll progress through the course. Specifics regarding the timing of lessons and due dates are available in the MyCourses page for our course. The instructor reserves the right to adjust pacing as needed, with the provision that due dates will never be moved forward (i.e., giving you **less** time for assignments), only backward.

Module 1 Welcome and Course Orientation
Module 2 Chapter 1: Terminology & Academic Integrity
Module 3 Chapter 12: Codes of Ethics
Module 4 Chapter 3: Critical Thinking Part 1: Logical and Illogical Thinking
Module 5 Chapter 4: Critical Thinking, Part 2: Ethical Problem-Solving
Module 6: Ethical Theories, Part 1: Utilitarianism (Ch. 5) and Natural Law (Ch. 6), Natural Rights Theory (Ch. 7)
Module 7: Ethical Theories, Part 2: Deontology, Contractarianism (Ch. 7)
Module 8: Ethics of Personal Flourishing--Egoism (Ch. 5) and Virtue Ethics (Ch. 6)
Module 9: Government Ethics
Module 10: Economic Justice & Ethics of International Relations
Module 11: TBD—Related to Abroad Trip
Module 12: TBD—Related to Abroad Trip
Module 13: TBD—Related to Abroad Trip