

AI 346 Real Life Ethical Dilemmas and Solutions

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Course Description:

This course will introduce students to basic principles guiding current ethical debate in the areas of business, medicine, and human reproduction. The class consists of concrete situational case studies, succinct introductory lectures on basic concepts and theoretical frameworks. Students will participate in discussions on current events involving ethical dimensions, group presentations, and write short reflection papers fulfilling competence A-3-C, A-3-X, A-4, F-X.

As an alternative to writing both competences, students can present one competence in class. If you are registered for one competence, it must be a written paper. According to De Paul University's academic integrity principles, the instructor reserves the right to fail a student for missing more than two classes without a proper cause.

Required Textbooks:

Simon Blackburn, **Being Good, A Short Introduction to Ethics**, Oxford University Press, 2003. ISBN#: 0192853775

Peter Singer, ed., **Ethics**, Oxford University Press, 1994.
ISBN#: 0-19-289245-2

Ethical Dimension

A-3-C: Can examine a social issue from an ethical perspective.

1. Identifies and describes a social issue or situation
2. Identifies an ethical perspective relevant to the issue or situation
3. Uses that perspective to raise or explore questions about this issue or situation.

Students demonstrate this competence by using an ethical perspective to analyze a social issue. They may create their own ethical perspective, but should always engage the ideas of one or more significant ethicists. The issues or situations that students address in this competence should affect large groups of people. Students should explore the implications of this analysis for their own experience.

A-3-X: Elective competence written by student

Ethics in the Contemporary World

A-4: Can analyze a problem using two different ethical systems.

1. Identifies and describes an ethical issue or problem
2. Describe the distinctive assumptions of two different ethical systems
3. Analyzes the problem by comparing and contrasting how these two different systems would apply to that particular ethical issue or problem.

F-X: This competence is to be written out in consultation with the instructor on focus area.

Students demonstrate this competence by applying two ethical systems to a particular issue or problem that permits substantial ethical examination (for example, business practices, uses of technology, reproductive rights, class structures, institutional racism, sexual behavior, etc.). Students may choose any ethical system that is associated with particular thinkers. Students may consider the choices these thinkers identify, and the standards or measures by which these choices are made to obtain desired outcomes.

Grade criteria:

1. Writings show your comprehension of assigned readings, and their application to your deliberation of the ethical issue.
2. You are not excused of class attendance without proper causes.
3. You need to inform me of your progress in your reading, research, and writing through informal conversations, and asking questions that I may or may not have answer to. You need to demonstrate your diligence, not perfection.

Please turn in written competence in time as the class is large. It is your responsibility to catch up if you have to miss one class or two, I will be able to go over the content of the previous week's class content. It's your responsibility to get notes from your classmates.

Any written paper should be 5 pages long, double spaced, standard font size 12, with a bibliography. Please **DO NOT** forget to mark the competence in the front. Without competence I cannot input electronically.

Class Schedule:

- 1 Art of Ethics
Reading: Blackburn: Part II: 11,12, 13
Singer: Part I: C.40
- 2 Ethics & Science
Reading: Blackburn: Part III: 14,15,18,19

- 3 Ethics & Christian Religion
Reading: Blackburn: Part I: 4,5
Singer: Part II: B.66,73
- 4 Ethics & Law - Censorship
Reading: Singer: Part II: A47,48. B.71,72
First Competence Due
- 5 Kant's Categorical Imperatives & Mill's Utilitarianism
- 6 Aristotelian Virtue Ethics
- 7 Ethics & Human Identity: Technology of the Self
Reading: Blackburn: Part I: 2,3
Singer: Part II: A.49
- 8 Ends & Means or Utility: Moral genealogy of the human body
Reading: Blackburn: Part I: 1,6,7
- 9 Life's Vicissitudes: the Hierarchy of Functions & Values Assignment
Reading: Blackburn: Part II: 8,9,10,16,17
Singer: Part II: B.77
- 10 Moral Absolutes & Foundations of Ethics
Reading: Blackburn: Part III: 20
Second Competence Due