

# THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

## PHIL 2306: Introduction to Ethics

### Section 001

TTH 11:00 a.m.

Fall 2025

### Course Syllabus

## **Professor Information**

Instructor Name: Dr. Griffin T. Nelson, Ph.D.

Office Location: None

Office Hours: By appointment only.

Phone Number: None

Email: [griffinnelson@uttyler.edu](mailto:griffinnelson@uttyler.edu) (or through the Canvas inbox)

Supervisor: Dr. Greg Bock ([gbock@uttyler.edu](mailto:gbock@uttyler.edu))

## **Required Texts**

The required texts for this course are available for FREE in PDF format. Please see the FREE COURSE TEXTS module in Canvas.

If you want a paper copy, use these editions:

Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*. 3rd Edition. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2019. ISBN: 978-1-62466-815-9

Kant, Immanuel. *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*. 3rd Edition. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-87220-166-8

Mill, John Stuart. *Utilitarianism*. 2nd Edition. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-87220-605-2

## **Course Description**

This course covers the main ethical theories from the history of Western philosophy.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to...

1) Articulate a basic understanding of the questions and importance of ethical theories.
2) Explain ethical theories concerning virtue, pleasure, self-interests, human nature, society, duty and the greatest good.
3) Analyze ethical issues in terms of ethical theories.
6) Critically evaluate philosophical arguments.

## **Grading Scale**

A=90-100%

B=80-89%

C=70-79%

D=60-69%

F=0-59%

## **Assignments**

6 Quizzes (lowest score dropped)	10%
Midterm and Final Exams	50%
Formatting and Citing Assignment	10%
Paper 1	10%
Paper 2	15%
Attendance/Participation (see below)	5%

## **Attendance/Participation**

You are expected to prepare assignments, do the readings and be present in class ON TIME. The student begins the semester with a positive grade for attendance (5%, 100 points). You are allowed to be absent TWO TIMES AT NO PENALTY, the equivalent of one week's worth of class time. For every instance that a student has an UNEXCUSED absence after two, he/she will be docked 5 points, up to 10 absences (1/3 of the semester), at which time you will receive an

AUTOMATIC ZERO for your attendance grade. EXCUSED absences must be DOCUMENTED (illness, sports, school functions, etc.) by note or email. Sometimes there are situations when students can be excused without documentation. This will be left up to the discretion of the professor and be limited to TWO excused absences without documentation.

## **Lateness to Class Policy**

For every two times a student is late to class, or leaves early, he/she will be treated as if he/she are absent and 5 points will be subtracted from the attendance grade. This instructor will in no way tolerate habitual tardiness. Such behavior is disruptive and disrespectful. If a student is late more than the equivalent of two weeks' worth of class time (MW or TTH=5 lates), the student will receive an AUTOMATIC ZERO for their attendance grade (-5% of your final grade). If a student's persistent lateness continues, he or she will be referred to the student conduct coordinator and may be removed from the class.

## **Late Paper Policy**

You will be allowed to turn in papers (and the Formatting and Citing Assignment) up to TWO days after the due date at no penalty. You will not be allowed to submit a paper after the two day period, resulting in a 0 for the assignment. The late policy does not apply to any other assignments for this class.

## **Missed Work Policy**

Missed work is work that has not been submitted by either the due date or the "available until" date. There will be no make-up of missed work unless you have a DOCUMENTED excuse or you have obtained permission from the professor. Even if you have a documented excuse or the professor's permission, assignments must be submitted within ONE WEEK of the student's return to the class.

## **Re-Doing Assignments Policy**

You will not be allowed to re-do assignments once the assignment has been graded.

## **Drop Policy**

Students should refer to the UT-Tyler Calendar for the last day to drop with a grade of "W".

## **Incomplete Grade Policy**

From the UT-Tyler Registrar page: "If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in lieu of a grade only

when all of the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all course work or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor; and (c) the student presents these reasons prior to the time that the final grade roster is due."

"Satisfactory progress" for this course means that a student has a C (70%) average or higher and that the student has submitted at least 70% of the assignments toward the semester total (100%) at the time the request is made. This instructor is hesitant to offer incomplete grades due to having adjunct status, which means I will not have access to the UT system, including Canvas, shortly after the semester ends.