

JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Department of Philosophy and Religion  
Philosophy 143: Ethics  
Spring 2019

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Dennis Arjo**

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**COURSE INFORMATION**

Credit Hours - 3

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites - none

Supplies - none

Required Texts

- *Ethics Introduced*, Arjo, Gale and Conrad, 1st Edition.

**Description**

This course is a study of historical theories of ethics as well as contemporary perspectives and applications of these to specific moral issues. The goal of the course is to help the student better understand contemporary social and moral issues in order to make personal ethical decisions.

**Objectives**

After completing this course, the student should be able to:

1. Acquire an understanding of the issues, problems, and practices involved in our efforts to make philosophical sense of our beliefs about reality, knowledge, and values.
2. Develop the ability to think in an evaluative and interpretive manner.
3. Develop an appreciation for alternative points of view.

4. Develop habits of character contributive to academic and philosophical excellence.

Note: If you are a student with a disability and if you will be requesting accommodations it is your responsibility to contact Special Services, Room 309 Commons. Special Services will recommend any appropriate accommodations to your instructor and his director. The instructor and director will identify for you which accommodations will be arranged.

The learning outcomes and competencies detailed in this course outline or syllabus meet or exceed the learning outcomes and competencies specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups project for Phil 1102 Ethics as approved by the Kansas Board of Regents.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Readings**

Assigned readings will form the basis of lectures and class discussion. Though some of it may be difficult, it is important that the readings be done before class, and that you read carefully and critically.

### **Lectures/Discussions**

Classes will be devoted to the interpretation and discussion of the readings. More than any other academic discipline, philosophy is about openly engaging ideas, as opposed to the transmission of a body of doctrine or facts. What matters is the ability to perceive and appreciate philosophical problems, and the ability to analyze and offer attempts to address them. Consequently, neither the readings or lectures and discussions will suffice on their own, and material for exams and paper topics will be drawn from both.

### **Exams and Assignments**

There will be five exams, all of which will emphasize writing and critical thinking. I will drop the lowest of your exam scores. Additionally, there will be two short papers that will allow for a more extended treatment of specific issues covered in class. There will be a total of fifteen weekly assignments addressed to the reading, such as brief summaries and study questions. In order to receive credit, these assignments must be directed towards the appropriate readings, and must be written in your own words. Extremely close paraphrasing or copying passages from the book is plagiarism and is not acceptable.

### **Grading**

Grades will be determined as follows. Each exam will be worth 40 points, the paper 30 points each, and the weekly assignments 5 points each. The weekly assignment will be graded on accuracy and thoroughness, and must be turned in at the beginning of class on the day they are due or earlier to receive full credit. There will also be 5 points for participation. How many of these you receive will be determined by how often you attend class, participate in discussions and turn in assignments on time.

Final grades will then be determined by the following scale:

- A - 90% - 100%
- B - 80% - 89%
- C - 70% - 79%
- D - 60 - 69%
- F - Below 60%

This will be adjusted if necessary.

### **Attendance**

Regular attendance is crucial and expected. Allowances will be made as much as possible for legitimate absences such as illness. Too many absences, even if excused, will invariably affect grades in an undesirable manner, and in any case make taking the class rather pointless.

### **Makeups and Late Work**

Exams can be made up if arrangements are made with the professor before the day of the exam. Unexcused late papers will be penalized 2 points per day. Late weekly assignments will be accepted for a week after they are due and will receive a maximum of 3 points. Students are responsible for getting any information or material they missed by not being in class.

### **Cheating**

Things speak for themselves. At minimum, anyone cheating will receive a 0 on the assignment with no chance of rewriting or otherwise making up the assignment. Depending on the circumstances academic dishonesty may also result in the student failing the class and/or the matter being referred to the administration, which could result in expulsion. Consistent with college policy, any work turned in may be checked electronically for unoriginal work that has not been properly cited.