

## PHIL 2306-902: INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS

### BASICS:

**Semester:** Fall 2022

**Modality:** Hybrid

**Credit:** 3 hours

### MEETINGS:

**Day:** Monday

**Time:** 3:30pm—4:45pm

**Room:** Classroom Hall 207

### INSTRUCTOR:

Marshall Naylor

[mnaylor@tamusa.edu](mailto:mnaylor@tamusa.edu)

Office: Central Academic Building #325 (Bullpen) 337

Office: <https://tamusa.zoom.us/j/6250585021>

Office Hours: by appointment

Office Phone: (210) 784-2433 (email is preferred)

### OVERVIEW:

This course will consider basic information about ethics as well as a set of highly competitive moral theories which aim to accurately explain the truth about morality in the world. Each theory we cover presents a rational approach to answering moral questions. Additionally, each theory is subtly different from each other in their rational approaches. Students should gain an understanding of the high level of discourse these moral theories engage in, as well as gain self-understanding of their own moral views.

### REQUIRED TEXT:

All required materials will be available on Blackboard or available from TAMUSA's library.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Critical Thinking Skills (CT) - creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. Communication Skills (COM) - effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. Social Responsibility (SR) - intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
4. Personal Responsibility (PR) - ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

5. Problems in Philosophy (PP) - understand, analyze, and express verbally and in writing standard problems in philosophy.

#### WRITING OUTCOMES:

1. Outline (O) – create an overall structure that explicitly states every major point.
2. Draft (D) – write in paragraph form, descriptions, explanations, comparisons, arguments in a rational and organized way.
3. Feedback (F) – make drafts available for comments, critiques, suggestions, and edits.
4. Rewrite (R)-- Integrate comments, critiques, suggestions, and edits in subsequent drafts.

#### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. There will be a set of exams, quizzes, and discussions serving as assessments.
2. Reviewing the course modules and readings are recommended.
3. Watching recorded lectures is recommended.

#### GRADING SYSTEM

Grade	Points
A	600–540
B	539–480
C	479–420
D	419–360
F	359–below

#### POSSIBLE POINTS

Evaluation	Value	Week Due	Calendar Issue Date
Exam #1	100 points	Online, 4 <sup>th</sup> week	Online, September 16
Exam #2	100 points	Online, 8 <sup>th</sup> week	Online, October 14
Exam #3	100 points	Online, 12 <sup>th</sup> week	Online, November 10
Exam #4	100 points	Online, 16 <sup>th</sup> week	Online, December 9
Ten Quizzes	100 points	Any, any week	Any day
Ten Discussions	100 points	Online, any day	Any day

**TOTAL**

**600 POINTS**

**DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. **Quizzes:** Find and apply factual information from the material and answer true/false questions.
2. **Discussions:** Engage, debate, critique, analyze, and elaborate on material with other students in a courteous way.
3. **Exams:** Create clear, well-organized, edited, and polished pieces of collegiate philosophical writing based on pre-determined prompts.

**ASSIGNMENT ADVICE:**

1. **Quizzes:** Make sure to study your notes prior to the exam. Have the material accessible to review during the quiz if it is allowed. Avoid hunting for exact wording to answer questions. Instead, focus on whether the quiz question accurately reflects concepts from the material.
2. **Discussions:** Follow the task instructions exactly. Always obey netiquette guidelines. Express your opinion when the task specifies you to do so. Incorporate class material when the discussion task specifies you to do so.
3. **Exams:** I think that students who engage in ODFR tend to earn more points on their exams. Send me your drafts for feedback as you work. Write in a plain English. Use your own words. The more worried you are about exams, the closer we should work together on them. Just a heads up. Comments and feedback before and after the turn in date are all by request. I do not offer unsolicited feedback on exams.

**COURSE POLICIES:****Deadline Extensions:**

A valid excuse, sometimes with documentation, is needed to support the request. These include but are not limited to medical reasons, work conflicts, childcare conflicts, authorized University activities, personal travel, or established religious holidays. Students must contact the instructor before or shortly after the deadline via email or in-person.

**Make-up Exams:**

There are no make-up exams offered for this course.

**Makeup Quizzes:**

There are no makeup quizzes offered for this course.

**Makeup Discussion:**

There are no makeup discussions offered for this course.

**Extra Credit:**

Extra credit may be offered. Extra credit may include but is not limited to quizzes, discussions, or submitting outlines and drafts for feedback from the instructor.

## **IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES:**

### **Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for individuals with disabilities. Title II of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodation of their disability. If you have a disability that may require accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu).

### **Academic Learning Center**

All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center is an appointment based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through Jagwire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing [tutoring@tamusa.edu](mailto:tutoring@tamusa.edu) or calling (210)-784-1332. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

### **Counseling Resources**

As a college student, there may be times when personal stress interferes with your academic performance and/or negatively impacts your daily functioning. If you or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at Texas A&M University – San Antonio, please contact the Student Counseling Center (SCC) located in Modular C, Room 166 (rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM, Monday – Friday. After-hours crisis support is available by calling 210-784-1331 (select option “2”). Please contact UPD at 911 if harm to self or harm to others is imminent.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free, confidential (as the law allows), and are not part of a student’s academic or university record. SCC provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit [www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling](http://www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling)

### **Emergency Preparedness**

JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio’s mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email and/or phone call with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>  
More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/upd/index.html>

### **Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance**

According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial

Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

### **Meeting Basic Needs**

If you face challenges securing food, housing or other basic needs, you are not alone, and A&M- San Antonio can help during this time of crisis. We invite you to learn about the many resources available to support you by visiting the [Dean of Student's website](#) or by reaching out via [dos@tamusa.edu](mailto:dos@tamusa.edu). Additionally, it is not unusual for students to encounter temporary illness or injuries that may interfere with your academic success. Students may request temporary illness/disability assistance by reaching out to the [Dean of Student's Office](#) (210) 784-1354. If you are comfortable doing so, please notify the professor of any issues so that they may provide additional resources.

### **Military Affairs**

Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and in special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at [military.va@tamusa.edu](mailto:military.va@tamusa.edu), or (210)784-1397.

### **Religious Observances**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

### **Respect for Diversity**

We understand that our students represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives. When we are equity-minded, we are aware of differences and inequalities and are willing to discuss them so we can act to resolve them. The University is committed to building cultural competencies, or the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enable individuals and organizations to acknowledge cultural differences and incorporate these differences in working with people from diverse cultures. Respecting and accepting people different than you is vital to your success in the class, on campus, and as a future professional in the global community. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- Share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs.
- Be open to the views of others.
- Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
- Value each other's opinions and communicate respectfully.
- Keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature.
- Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the A&M-San Antonio community.

### **The Six-Drop Rule**

Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's

GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as “F” grades and will impact the student’s GPA.

### **Statement of Harassment and Discrimination**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism, and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the university. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and other healthcare providers) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university’s Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331, Modular C.

### **Students’ Rights and Responsibilities**

The purpose of the following statement is to enumerate the essential provisions for the student freedom and responsibility to learn at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. All students are required to follow all policies and regulations as set forth by The Texas A&M University System. This includes the [A&M-San Antonio Student Code of Conduct](#).

#### *Students’ Rights*

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no university rule or procedure that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the university, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, gender identity, or gender expression in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

### *Students' Responsibilities*

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and the administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, University Catalog and students must comply with them and the laws of the land.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire university community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.
6. We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

### **Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center**

The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://bit.ly/WLDCCenter>.

### **COVID-19 Guidelines**

The safety of our campus community is paramount to our ability to provide our students, faculty, and staff with a productive and secure learning and working environment. While masks are not required, we do encourage everyone to wear a mask, particularly inside the buildings, in order to reduce the spread of covid-19. The university maintains a covid-19 web-site with current data, safety protocols, and reporting guidelines at <https://www.tamusa.edu/community-safety-together/index.html>.

### **Important Dates:**

August 18	Classes Begin
September 2	Census Day
September 5	Labor Day
November 9	Last day to drop with an automatic grade of "W"
November 24-26	Thanksgiving Holiday - No classes
December 7	Last day of scheduled classes for weekday classes
December 8-9	Study days
December 12-17	Final examinations

The complete academic calendar is available online: <https://www.tamusa.edu/provost/academic-calendar.html>

### PROJECTED COURSE CALENDAR

WEEK	TO DO
1-2	Introduction to Moral Theory
2-3	Introduction to Moral Theory
4	Exam #1
5-6	Ethical Egoism
6-7	Divine Command Theory
8	Exam #2
9-10	Moral Relativism
10-11	Classical Utilitarianism
12	Contemporary Views
13	Exam #3
14	Kantian Ethics
15	Kantian Ethics
16	Exam Final

\*Any dates, polices and content of the syllabus are subject to change at any time for any reason.