

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

PHIL 114: ETHICS

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: PHIL 114: Ethics

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall Year: 2021

D. Effective Term: Fall 2022

E. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Science, Social Work, & Education

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3
 Laboratory: 0
 Out of class student work per week: 6

H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: **Placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I with ENGL 070 English Composition I Workshop, or higher.**

I. Laboratory Fees: None

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval:

Chair: Isabel Gutierrez Isabel.Gutierrez@raritanval.edu

Divisional Dean: Dr. Patrice Marks Patrice.Marks@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I with ENGL 070 English Composition I Workshop, or higher. This course will provide students with a theoretical introduction to the philosophical study of the nature of morality. It will explore that nature and meaning of moral terms, as well as moral reasoning from diverse perspectives, including but not limited to consequentialism, deontology, divine command theory, egoism, relativism, and virtue ethics. Students will also apply ethical principles and problem-solving models to examples taken from everyday life.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. This course provides a broad theoretical introduction to the study of ethics, which has traditionally been at the heart of a broad liberal arts education because it is vital to all disciplines, programs of study, and aspects of life.
- B. This course also serves as a foundational introduction to a major sub-discipline of philosophy.
- C. There is no lab component.
- D. This course generally transfers as a
 - 1. Humanities Gen-ed
 - 2. Humanities elective
 - 3. Free elective.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in the Humanities.
- C. This course satisfies the humanities elective for degree programs.
- D. This course satisfies the General Education ethical reasoning and action requirement.
- E. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Ethics and the Examined Life
- B. Subjectivism, Relativism, and Emotivism
- C. Evaluating Moral Arguments and Logical Fallacies
- D. Evaluating Moral Theories and Moral Responsibility
- E. Deontological/Nonconsequentialist Theories
 - 1. Kantian Ethics
 - 2. Natural Law Theories
 - 3. Criticisms of Nonconsequentialism
- F. Consequentialist Theories
 - 1. Ethical Egoism
 - 2. Utilitarianism
 - 3. Criticisms of Consequentialism
- G. Virtue Ethics
 - 1. Aristotelian Ethics
 - 2. Ethics of Care and Feminist Ethics
 - 3. Criticisms of Virtue Ethics
- H. Applications of Ethical Theory

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. recall and describe seminal moral theories (NJ G.E. 1 & 6)
2. effectively communicate an ethical judgment in both speech and writing (GE-1)
3. evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different ethical perspectives (GE-ERA)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. analyze works in the field of ethics (GE-6)
2. apply ethical theories in order to make ethical judgments
3. critically evaluate arguments from experts in the field, including guest speakers (GE-6)

C. Assessment Instruments

1. case studies
2. essays
3. presentations
4. projects
5. quizzes
6. reflections
7. research papers
8. tests

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. case studies
- B. class participations
- C. essays
- D. presentations
- E. projects
- F. quizzes
- G. reflections
- H. research papers
- I. tests

Given the goals and outcomes described above, LIST the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. lecture
- B. discussion

- C. film & media
- D. small-group work
- E. student oral presentations

VIII. Texts and Materials

- A. Suggested Textbooks (including but not limited to):
 1. Mackinnon, Barbara. (2018). *Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues*. 9th Edition. Cengage: New York.
 2. Thiroux, Jacques P. (2022) *Ethics: Theory and Practice*. 11th Edition. Pearson: New York.
 3. OER

Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.

IX. Resources

- A. Classroom
- B. Academic Support Center
- C. Testing Center
- D. Library
- E. Internet Access

X. Honors Options [if relevant]

N/A