

ETL 235 The Ethical Life: Moral and Social Responsibility Spring 2009

Course Administrator:

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Textbook: *The Ethical Life: A Service-Learning Reader*, ed. Elizabeth M. Meade.
Available only through the bookstore.

Spring 2009 Sections:

Section #	Day and Time	Instructor	Instructor contact
ETL 235 00	Mon. 11-11:50	Maynard Cressman	Curtis 234, ext. 3502 mlcressm@cedarcrest.edu
ETL 235 01	Mon. 1-1:50	Christine Nowik	Curtis 109 cmspindl@cedarcrest.edu
ETL 235 02	Tues. 2-2:50	Robert Wilson	Hartzel 113, ext. 3474 rawilson@cedarcrest.edu
ETL 235 03	Tues. 3-3:50	Judy Malitsch	Miller 23, ext. 3605 jamalits@cedarcrest.edu
ETL 235 04	Wed. 10-10:50	Kenza Glass	Curtis 109, ext. 3591 kmglass@cedarcrest.edu
ETL 235 05	Wed. 11-11:50	Elizabeth Meade	Hartzel Hall 115, ext. 3417 emeade@cedarcrest.edu
ETL 235 75	W 7-8:50 <i>accelerated</i>	Elizabeth Ortiz	Hartzel Hall 228, ext. 3429 erortiz@cedarcrest.edu
ETL 235 80	T 5-6:50	Tammy Beade	Allen House, ext. 3392 tebean@cedarcrest.edu

Course Description

The Ethical Life: Moral and Social Responsibility provides students the opportunity to study the major theories of ethics and social justice, and to explore their own values and beliefs, in the context of an individual's responsibility to her community. The course is designed to enhance the process of learning and self-exploration by enabling the students to put into immediate practice the ideas they discuss in the classroom. Consequently, it is composed of two interdependent elements: 1) class meetings, discussing personal values, ethical theories, and theories of community and social justice; and 2) a minimum of 28 hours over the course of the semester in a community partnership placement (providing a needed service to the community). It is a college-wide requirement; therefore, it must be passed in order to graduate from Cedar Crest College.

Outcomes and Assessment

Students completing the course will have acquired (1) a deeper understanding of their personal values, and made a closer connection to their community. (2) They will have acquired knowledge of the major theories of ethics and social justice, as well as (3) how those ideas were derived from and apply to the needs of American communities. In addition, through both oral and written critical reflection, (4) students will have enhanced their critical thinking skills. These outcomes will be assessed through a series of writing assignments, requiring reflection on the readings for the week as well as application of those theories to their own lives and to their work at the site. Class discussion and exercises will also be used to assess the acquisition of critical thinking skills, as well as the application of the theories to issues in their communities and at their sites.

Course Requirements

There are three components to the course, each of which must be satisfactorily completed. They are:

1) **Site:** Students must complete the required number of hours for their site, in order to complete the course. Ordinarily, the number of hours to be completed is 28; however, there are a few sites which require more hours. By registering for, and completing the orientation for, such a site, you agree to complete the required number of hours. **Students WILL NOT PASS THE COURSE IF THEY HAVE NOT COMPLETED THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF HOURS AT THEIR SITE.** Any hours missed due to illness or other reason must be made up by the student.

In addition, any student who proves to be an undue burden to the site will fail the course. Behaviors which constitute being a burden to the site include, but are not limited to: repeatedly not attending scheduled hours, breaching confidentiality, and repeated inappropriate conduct.

2) **Classroom:** The class discussion and class exercises are an important part of the course; consequently, students must make every effort to be prepared for and attend the weekly class meeting. No more than two classes may be missed **FOR ANY REASON.** The course makes no distinction between excused and unexcused absences. **Missing more than TWO classes for any reason will result in a failing grade for the course. Two late arrivals of more than 5 minutes will be counted as an absence.**

3) **Writing Assignments:** There are two writing assignments due each week, on the reading and on your site. (Four assignments per week for the accelerated section.) Each one must be a minimum of one full typed page in length, double-spaced, in a 12 point font. *In accordance with Cedar Crest College's policy on academic honesty, and in keeping with the subject matter of the course, plagiarism of journals will also result in failing the course.*

Grading Policies

A grade will be assigned for the course, based on the following rubric:

(Numeric values of letter grades are as follows: A=95; A-=92; B+=88; B=85; B-=82; C+=78; C=75; C-=72; D=65; F=50)

Site (25%)

A=Completed required number of hours at site

F=Failed to complete required number of hours at the site

*An F in the site results in an automatic F for the course, regardless of grade in other areas.

Classroom (25%)

A=Attended every class, demonstrated understanding of reading and issues by participating in every class.

A-=Attended all but one or two classes, demonstrated understanding of reading and issues by participating in every class attended.

B=Attended minimum number of classes, demonstrated understanding of reading and issues by participating in many classes attended.

C=Attended minimum number of classes, participated occasionally and occasionally demonstrated understanding of reading and issues.

D=Attended minimum number of classes, rarely participated and rarely demonstrated understanding of reading and issues.

F=Missed more than two classes

**A grade of F in this area results in an automatic F for the course, regardless of grade in other areas.

Writing Assignments (50%)

A=Every assignment was passed in, met or exceeded the minimum length, demonstrated a good understanding of the reading or issue.

B=Every assignment was passed in, met the minimum length, were on the assigned topic, reading or issue

C=Every assignment was passed in, met minimum length

D=Every assignment was passed in, did not meet minimum length, did not reflect having read or understood the reading, topic or issue

F=Some assignments were not passed in

Course Policies

- ❖ Students are required to complete an orientation with their site supervisor prior to beginning scheduled hours. Orientations are usually scheduled for the second or third week of classes and may be at a different time than regularly scheduled hours. **Students are required to attend this orientation.** Sites will under no circumstances be asked to do more than two orientations total.
- ❖ Changes to a student's community placement site may not be made after Friday, January 30. We do not, however, guarantee that any changes can be made, due to the availability of sites.
- ❖ Midterm Hours log due Friday March 6.
- ❖ Community placement hours must be completed by the last day of classes, Tuesday, May 5.
- ❖ Students are required to fill out, sign and obtain the signature of the site supervisor for their **Learning Agreement**. Failure to do so by Friday, February 13 may result in failing the course.
- ❖ Students must keep a **Log of Hours** for their community placement. The log must be submitted at midterm and at the end of the semester. Logs will also be checked in class periodically. Students who do not submit their logs by 4:00 on May 6 may fail the course.