

PHI 250: Introduction to Professional Ethics
Thursdays 7-9:30
Spring 2010

REVISED syllabus

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Office Hour: Wed. 10-12 and by appointment

Textbook: *The Elements of Ethics for Professionals*, by W. Brad Johnson and Charles R. Ridley

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the fundamental principles of ethical theory and their application to the professions. While individual professions such as nursing, business, law, medicine, social work and journalism will be discussed, the emphasis of the course is on the ethical principles and issues which apply to all professions, including confidentiality, deception, whistle-blowing, and social responsibility. Students will study various codes of professional ethics, encounter case studies drawn from multiple professions, and engage in research on a profession or issue of their own choosing. The course will be conducted in seminar format.

Hybrid Course

This class is a **hybrid** course. This means that almost half of its content will be delivered on-line and through work done by you outside the classroom that might otherwise have been done in class. The class requires fully the same amount of time as any other 3 credit class, so manage your time effectively! The dates on which class will be held in the classroom are as follows: January 21 and 28, February 11 and 25, March 18, April 1, 15 and 30. You should plan to be available on any Thursday night, however. I reserve the right to change these meeting dates in response to events leading to the cancellation of a regularly scheduled class meeting, such as inclement weather. In general, if an in-class meeting needs to be cancelled, we will meet in class the next week, even if it is listed on the syllabus as an on-line day.

Each in-class meeting will introduce a new concept in professional ethics: integrity, non-maleficence, respect, beneficence, compassion, justice and fidelity. I will introduce the history and meaning of the concept. We will discuss the implementation of the concept using the book *The Elements of Ethics for Professionals*.

On the week out of class you will be expected to do the following: 1) Read any additional material I post for that week (typically a journal article on some profession and the relevant

concept or a case study), 2) participate in a threaded discussion about the reading (involving a minimum of 2 contributions).

Course Objectives

Students completing this course will have attained a thorough knowledge of 1) the major ethical theories of the Western tradition; 2) the major principles of professional ethics; 3) the application of these theories and principles to multiple professions; and 4) will be able to formulate and defend a moral position on an aspect of professional life and performance. In addition, particular attention will be paid to improving students' skills in written communication.

Assessment

Student knowledge of the major ethical theories and major principles of professional ethics will be evaluated on the basis of performance on one midterm and one final examination. The ability to apply these theories and principles to multiple professions will be evaluated on the basis of performance on the midterm and final examinations, and on the basis of performance on a research project. Moral reasoning skills will be evaluated on the basis of performance on the research paper and on the basis of the writing assignments. Writing skills will be evaluated on the basis of the writing assignments.

Requirements

Attendance/Participation	15%	**including quality and frequency of on-line participation
Midterm exam	20%	
First short paper	10%	
Second short paper	15%	
Research paper	20%	
Final exam	20%	

Due Dates

Assignments are due on the date indicated. Late work will be subject to penalties according to course policies. Work will be submitted to the drop box on eCollege. Work must be submitted in Word format (with a .doc or .docx extension). Work submitted in any other format will be considered unsubmitted.

Writing Intensive

This is a **writing intensive** course, fulfilling the WRI2 requirement of the curriculum.

Course Policies

- Students must retain a hard copy of all submitted work.
- Students must complete and submit all required work to pass.
- Work that is submitted late without prior consent from the instructor will be penalized 1/3 grade per day until it is received.
- Attendance is required and graded. Chronic lateness will result in a drop in the attendance grade.
- Plagiarism will be penalized either with a failing grade for the paper, or with a failing grade for the course, depending on the severity of the case, at my discretion

Plagiarism is representing another person's words or ideas as your own. If you include words or ideas in your paper or test which come from another source, without letting me know with the appropriate documentation, you have plagiarized. The source can be anything: Web pages, newspapers, your textbook, a television show. There is an appropriate way to document every conceivable kind of source. It is plagiarism whether it is a direct quote, a paraphrase, or an idea. "Forgetting" to put in citations is not an acceptable excuse for plagiarism, any more than "forgetting to pay" is an acceptable excuse for shoplifting. Plagiarism is a serious offense and will be dealt with seriously.

E-Companion

As a hybrid course, much of your course materials and course work will be done through the course's eCollege site.. Please call IT at 3348 if you have trouble accessing the eCollege site.

Honor Philosophy

This course will be conducted in accordance with the principles of the Cedar Crest College Honor Philosophy.

Email Policy

All communications must be made using Cedar Crest College email accounts. This is to protect your privacy, in accordance with federal law.

Class Cancellation Policy

In the event that I must cancel class, I will make every reasonable effort to email each of you at your Cedar Crest College account. If the cancellation is weather related, and the College is remaining open, you may check my voicemail at extension 3417. If I need to cancel class because of weather, I will leave an outgoing message on my voicemail advising students that class is cancelled. I will also post an announcement on the course's eCompanion site.

Statement on Accommodations

Students with documented disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss these needs with their professors during the first two weeks of class. Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations should contact the Advising Center.

Readings and Assignments

Jan. 21 Introduction to professional ethics
Introduction to basic moral concepts

Jan. 28 Integrity Chapter 1, *Elements of Ethics*

Feb. 4 *On-line*

Read “Academic Dishonesty: A Crisis on Campus” (available on course website in full-text format). Participate in on-line discussion, minimum of two postings.

Writing Assignment: Write a short essay introducing me to your research topic. It must use at least one article from a journal within the profession you have selected.

Feb. 11 Non-maleficence Chapter 2, *Elements of Ethics*

Feb. 18 *On-line*

Read: “Non-maleficence case study” on course website. Participate in on-line discussion, minimum of two postings.

Continue work on 5 page paper

Feb. 25 Respect Chapter 3, *Elements of Ethics*
In-class writing workshop. Bring 3 copies of your paper. Also submit a copy to the dropbox prior to the start of class.

Mar. 4 *On-line*
Take home midterm exam

Mar. 11 No Class – Spring Break

Mar. 18 Beneficence Chapter 4, *Elements of Ethics*

Mar. 25 *On-line*

Read: “Terminal Sedation: Pulling the Sheet Over Our Eyes”. Participate in on-line discussion, minimum of two postings.

Apr. 1 *On-line*

Read: "Kindness and Corporation" on course Website and participate in on-line discussion. Minimum two postings.

Submit research paper!

Apr. 8 Compassion Chapter 6, *Elements of Ethics*

Apr. 15 Justice Chapter 7, *Elements of Ethics*

Apr. 22 *On-line*

Read: Chapter 8, Elements of Ethics and participate in on-line discussion.
Minimum of two postings.

Apr. 29 Fidelity Chapter 9, *Elements of Ethics*