COURSE TITLE & NUMBER: Ethics: PHIL 1300  
CREDITS: 3 (Lecture 3/ Lab 0) 
PREREQUISITES: None

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
Ethics, utilizing the foundation of moral thinking dating back to the Classical Greeks, 
examines the thinking of the great philosophers of history and applies these concepts to 
contemporary problems facing today's citizens. Current moral issues are examined using 
the traditional concepts of good, right, duty, and responsibility. Using ethical theories 
such as consequentialism, virtue ethics, deontological ethics, and the thinking of Hume, 
Hobbes, Kant, Bentham, and others, the student will develop a personal perspective for 
dealing with today's moral dilemmas. Students apply critical thinking skills to the 
development of an objective, empathic, value-based view of the world. MNTC Goal 
Area(s): (06) The Humanities and Fine Arts and (09) Ethical and Civic Responsibility.

OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
1. Ethical theory  
   A. Definition of philosophy and relationship of ethics to philosophy  
   B. Differentiation of ethics from religion, science, and law  
   C. Derivation of moral thinking  
   D. Consequentialist (teleological) theories of ethics  
      i. Utilitarianism  
      ii. Egoistic theory  
   E. Deontological theories  
      i. Divine command or religious ethics  
      ii. Kant's Categorical Imperative  
   F. Virtue ethics  
   G. Absolutism and relativism in ethical thinking  
   H. Information ethics  
2. Applications

COURSE GOALS/OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES:
1. Students will distinguish ethical thinking from religious, scientific, and legal 
thinking.  
2. Students will analyze the deontological theory of Immanuel Kant.  
3. Students will clarify the concept of truth as it is understood in the epistemological 
concepts of absolutism and relativism.  
4. Students will distinguish between intrinsic and instrumental valuation.  
5. Students will describe an individual ethical theory.  
6. Students will use virtue theory when analyzing moral scenarios.  
7. Students will apply utilitarian and deontological theories to a current moral issue.
8. Students will summarize two major issues in biomedical ethics.
9. Students will distinguish the characteristics of moral agents and moral patients.
10. Students will describe some moral problems which are brought about by the information revolution.

MNTC GOALS AND COMPETENCIES MET:
The Humanities and Fine Arts
Ethical and Civic Responsibility

HCC COMPETENCIES MET:
Working productively and cooperatively
Communicating clearly and effectively
Thinking clearly and critically
Social/Civic responsibility

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS:
The student is expected to attend class regularly, actively participate in class discussion, and complete coursework as required. The student will complete a major term paper applying the basic principles of ethical theory to a social problem or dilemma. In class the students will apply ethical concepts to various moral problems, debating issues from different perspectives.

METHODS FOR EVALUATING STUDENT LEARNING:
Student assessment shall take place using instruments selected/developed by the course instructor.

Curriculum Committee Approval Date: December 3, 2018

AASC APPROVAL DATE: December 19, 2018
REVIEW DATE: December 2023