

HECC 4308 – ETHICS SYLLABUS

SPRING 2024



Marcus Aurelius 121-180

Roman Emperor 161-180

"Live a good life. If there are gods and they are just, then they will not care how devout you have been, but will welcome you based on the virtues you have lived by.

If there are gods, but unjust, then you should not want to worship them.

If there are no gods, then you will be gone, but...will have lived a noble life that will live on in the memories of your loved ones".

Marcus Aurelius

“THE BANALITY OF EVIL (Hannah Arendt)

*” The term describes the thesis that the great evils in history generally, were not executed by fanatics or sociopaths, but rather by **ordinary people** who accepted the premises of their state, and therefore participated with the view that their actions were normal.*



Adolph Eichmann

The head of the Department of Jewish Affairs in the Gestapo from 1941 to 1945. He was chief of operations in the deportation of three million Jews to extermination camps.

To what extent might other primates have the capacity for making moral judgments?



Course Information

Time: 12:30-1:50

Place: HPC 2255

INSTRUCTOR & CONTACT INFORMATION

Cheryl M. Cooper, MSN, PhD

Professor

Health Sciences

Email: ccooper@uttyler.edu

Office hours:

Tuesdays 11 AM - 12 NOON

Thursdays 11 AM - 12 NOON

Other times by appointment

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- TEXT

- **Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues**

- **9th edition** with readings
 - Author: Barbara Mackinnon
 - Publisher: Cengage L

- ISBN: 9781305958678

- Internet Access
 - Connection to UT Tyler Canvas)

Use your Patriot email account for communication about this course (no other email account is acceptable).

COURSE OVERVIEW

HECC 4308.001 provides students with an introduction to ethics. It is designed primarily for undergraduate students enrolled in health and kinesiology programs, but its scope is broad. Learning materials provide historical and thematic perspectives on moral philosophy and on the application of ethical theories to real world ethical problems. Selected **bioethical** issues related to health and illness, will be explored.

The course is divided into two parts as follows:

Part One (Theory) The chapter reading assignments will provide basic definitions and concepts, with a focus on theories and principles that are associated with major moral philosophers from the ancient Greeks such as Plato and Aristotle up to modern thinkers such as John Rawls. Their ideas will serve as the major stimuli for thought and discussion.

Part Two (Applied Ethics): Learning activities will involve, the application of theories and principles learned earlier, to some selected ethical questions and dilemmas from the fields of health, human research, education, criminal justice, sports, and the behavioral sciences.

There will be some supplementary learning materials assigned, such as videos, film clips, newspaper articles, opinion columns, and essays.

Throughout the course students will be encouraged to question their your own ethical beliefs, and in the process, explore the extent to which reason and argument can play a role in everyday ethical decision-making.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

COURSE GOALS: The goals of this course are to promote

- a. student familiarity with a wide range of ethical positions and arguments from antiquity to the present and from diverse cultural and socio-political contexts.
- b. student ability to reason critically and to engage in ethical reflection through considering a variety of problems involving ethical and moral issues.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Students who complete this course successfully should be able to

- **Interpret** assigned texts and other materials by accurately and fully describing theories, principles, basic concepts and the various arguments related to various moral dilemmas.
- **Reason** about moral issues and ideas (a) by evaluating the content, structure, and strategies involved in addressing ethical problems and (b) applying concepts and arguments to contemporary issues and to ethical issues in their own lives.
- **Collaborate** with other students by engaging in on-line discussions.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA

This is a reading, thinking, and writing intensive class.

The grade of “A” will be earned by students who show that they have thought carefully about the ethical theories, the related principles, and their underlying assumptions,. Answers to discussion questions should be clearly written, represent your thoughtful consideration, and be presented in your own words.

REMINDER ! If the words or ideas expressed in responses or discussions are NOT YOUR OWN, you must indicate that, and clearly reference that person, whether that person be a famous philosopher or a fellow student.

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are **serious violations** of personal and educational integrity. Evidence of any of these behaviors will result in automatic failure of the course and other possible penalties.

For example, your comments might look something like this: “Plato (in Euthyphro) says that blah blah blah. Antoinette (a classmate) said in her last e mail, that she thinks that Bentham was mistaken when he said *blah blah blah*. As for me, I don’t agree with either Plato or Antoinette. I tend to think that Kant had it right when he said *blah blah blah*.” And so on.

Grading Specifics

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- Quizzes 40%
(add all your scores (in %) and calculate the mean. Multiply the mean by .40)
- Response Papers and other assigned learning activities 10%
(add all your scores (in %) and calculate the mean. Multiply the mean by .10)
- Final exam. 50% (Multiply the score in % by .50)

FINAL GRADE

Add all the weighted scores and change to % to give you the final grade

90-100%=	A
80-89%=	B
70-79%=	C
60-69%=	D
<59%=	F

For each assignment that is submitted after the due date, 10% of the score for that assignment will be deducted. Exceptions are rare and considered on an individual basis. There will be no make-up assignments, quizzes, or exams.

Success in this course requires careful reading and thoughtful writing. Please use spellcheck and other resources to assure that your written responses are carefully written with minimal spelling and grammatical errors.

The Topic/Reading/ Activity (TRA) schedule and assignments will be posted in Canvas.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

If you request help with clarifying due dates for projects, group assignments, or other similar concerns, please first assure that you have read the syllabus, course guide, and TRA (Topic Reading and Activity) schedule carefully, before submitting a question.

If you need my help in understanding basic concepts, reading or other assignments, (assuming you have taken time to study them independently) please e mail me and we will arrange an office appointment to review the problem areas.

For Canvas Problems: If you are experiencing problems with Canvas you must call the IT support number or email itsupport@patriots.utt Tyler.edu. I have no ability to solve individual issues with Canvas.

Topic/Reading/Activity Schedule: I will try to adhere to the schedule as closely as possible. *I do reserve the right however, to change selected topics or readings and to change the due dates for assignments and/or quizzes, if this seems appropriate* or necessary.

Sometimes unexpected events occur that require changes, or sometimes new learning opportunities, in the form of media reports, documentaries, webinars, or other learning activities become available. **If I judge these opportunities to be of value and relevant to the course goals, it is possible that I will substitute them, for some other topics or activities assigned earlier. I will make sure that there are clear announcements posted as early as possible if there are any major changes.**

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Taken from the Handbook of Operating Procedures that you should be aware of and adhere to:

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Responsibility for class attendance rests with the student. A student shall make every attempt to notify each instructor in advance, or as soon as possible thereafter, when there is a legitimate (unforeseen or unavoidable) reason for being absent.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

. . . Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student for any of the following acts or omissions:

. . . Scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

(i) "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student's test paper;
- using during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test, key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructor has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or information about an unadministered test, test key, homework solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of U. T. Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; . . .

"Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit.

"Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

FOOD AND DRINK IN CLASSROOMS-Consumption of food and drink in university classrooms is prohibited.

INDOOR/OUTDOOR SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS

The University of Texas at Tyler is a smoke-free campus. No smoking will be permitted in any building, hallway, classroom, laboratory, restroom, lounge, or other indoor/outdoor location.

Religious Holy Days. In accordance with Texas Education Code, Section 51.911, a student may be excused from exams or assignments in observance of a religious holy day if at least 5 days before the date of absence the student delivers written notice of the absence to the instructor(s) of the class (es) by either (1) personal hand-delivery, with acknowledgement of receipt by instructor(s) or (2) certified mail, return receipt requested.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under section.

A student shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after an absence due to observance of a religious holy day provided the student has met the conditions listed above.

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request disability support services/accommodation, please contact Ida MacDonald in the Disability Support Services office so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting disability support services/accommodation must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Support Services counselor. For more information, call or visit the Student Services Office located in the University Center, Room 282. The telephone number is 566-7079 (TDD 565-5579).