



**On-Campus Course Syllabus**  
**PHI 301**  
**Ethics**  
**Spring 2024**

### **Class Information**

**Day and Time:** Thursday 4:45-7:00 P.M.

**Room Number:** (enter your class room number)

### **Contact Information**

**Instructor Name:** Dr. Brent Thorn

**Instructor Email:** [BThorn@criswell.edu](mailto:BThorn@criswell.edu)

**Instructor Phone:** (enter your phone number(s))

**Instructor Office Hours:** [Friday 10:00-12:00 Virtually](#)

### **Course Description and Prerequisites**

A study of the principal ethical theories and thinkers, basic ethical problems, and related biblical teaching.

### **Course Objectives**

Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.

2. Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, major arguments, problems, and terminology in philosophy.
3. Present logically persuasive arguments both orally and in writing.
4. Demonstrate critical thinking skills in evaluation and application of philosophical concepts to various aspects of life.
5. Apply Moral reasoning to a Biblical world view

### **Required Textbooks**

Textbook – *Ethical Choices: An Introduction to Moral Philosophy with Cases* 2<sup>nd</sup> editions by Richard Burnor and Ynonne Raley

### **Recommended Reading**

Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*

Kant, Emmanuel. *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*.

### **Course Requirements and Assignments**

- We will use a weighted grading method in this course.

- Applications 10%
- Class Participation 20% (Attendance, Student Contract, and 6 Quizzes)
- Critical Essay 20%
- Unit Exams (3) 30%
- Final Exam: 20%

### **Leaving Class Early**

Leaving class early is only permitted if discussed prior to class with the professor. If there is a rare need to exit prematurely, just let me know prior to class. If a student stands to leave class, he/she will be asked to sign out on the class roll sheet

### **Late Attendance Policy**

After 2 late arrivals, an absence will be recorded. Each absence leads to a ~4 point reduction in the attendance grade. If tardiness becomes habitual, then the student's actions will be deemed disruptive to the class and may be temporarily dismissed from the class.

### **Cell Phones/Laptops**

Cell Phones and laptops computers should be put away during class. The professor will let students know when the electronic textbook can be accessed with a mobile device.

### **Recording and Sharing lecture/assignment content**

Course materials (including assignments, lectures, and your own work for the course) should not be shared with others, including posting course materials online, without obtaining permission from the instructor.

### **Food and Drinks**

No full meals during class. Beverages and snacks are allowed during class.

### **Test Instructions**

Three tests will be administered and a final exam. Tests will consist of objective questions, essay questions, and listing questions. If a student misses a test, no make-up will be given. However, the lowest unit test grade will be dropped. You will need a scantron 882-E

### **Quizzes**

They have 10 questions and 10 minutes to take the quiz in class following the lecture. You will need a scantron 815-E

### **Core Application**

The Critical Essay is a major grade. It must be typed, properly formatted according the instructions given, well edited, and based on the original analysis of the student in line with college anti-plagiarism standards listed below. An electronic copy in PDF or Word format must be uploaded into Canvas on or before the due date. An assignment not uploaded to Canvas will not receive full credit since it does not have an originality report. An originality report that indicates plagiarism will receive a grade of 0.

### **Class Attendance**

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to attend every class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any information

missed. Instructors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual instructors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

## Campus Closure

To ensure the health and safety of students and employees, college administrators may decide it is necessary on rare occasions to close the campus. Once this decision is announced, instructors will contact students to provide further details regarding the campus closure's impact on those courses. Students are responsible to watch for communication from their instructors and respond appropriately. (Unless otherwise specified by the instructor in this syllabus, this communication will be sent to the student's Criswell College e-mail account.)

In order to make progress toward the courses' objectives, instructors have the freedom during most campus closures to require students to participate in activities as alternatives to meeting on campus. An instructor may, for example, hold class remotely (through Zoom) at the scheduled time, provide a recording of a class or presentation for students to watch independently, or assign other activities that students are to accomplish before returning to campus. Students are responsible for accomplishing these alternative activities as well as any course requirements listed in this syllabus during the period of the campus closure. If, during the period of the campus closure, personal circumstances prohibit a student from accomplishing these alternative activities or course requirements and assignment listed in the syllabus during the campus closure, the student is responsible for communicating with the instructor as soon as possible. Instructors will not penalize students who do not have the means to accomplish the alternative activities during the period of the campus's closure and will work with students whose circumstances during the campus closure prohibited their timely completion of course requirements and assignments in the syllabus.

## Grading Scale

			Grade Definitions (optional)
A	93-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour	
A-	90-92	3.7 grade points per semester hour	
B+	87-89	3.3 grade points per semester hour	
B	83-86	3.0 grade points per semester hour	
B-	80-82	2.7 grade points per semester hour	
C+	77-79	2.3 grade points per semester hour	
C	73-76	2.0 grade points per semester hour	
C-	70-72	1.7 grade points per semester hour	
D+	67-69	1.3 grade points per semester hour	
D	63-66	1.0 grade point per semester hour	
D-	60-62	0.7 grade points per semester hour	
F	0-59	0.0 grade points per semester hour	

## Incomplete Grades

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An "I" may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a

course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their instructors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar's Office. The "I" must be removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the close of the term or semester in which the grade was awarded, or the "I" will become an "F."

## **Academic Honesty**

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,
- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

## **Institutional Assessment**

Material submitted by students in this course may be used for assessment of the college's academic programs. Since programmatic and institutional assessment is done without reference to specific students, the results of these assessments have no effect on a student's course grade or academic standing at the college. Before submitting a student's work for this type of assessment, the course instructor redacts the work to remove anything that identifies the student.

## **Institutional Email Policy**

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students' institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

## **Disabilities**

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable

accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

## **Intellectual Property Rights**

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the instructor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

## **Resources and Supports**

Canvas and SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number, twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at [studenttechsupport@criswell.edu](mailto:studenttechsupport@criswell.edu).

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or [studentservices@criswell.edu](mailto:studentservices@criswell.edu). The Student Services Office also works with local counseling centers to ensure that every student has access to helpful mental health resources. More information is located on the college website at [Criswell College Mental Health Resources](#), and students may contact the Director of Student Services if they have any questions.

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by contacting or visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, email the Wallace Library at [library@criswell.edu](mailto:library@criswell.edu). Offsite login information is available in Canvas in the “Criswell Student Training Course” under “Library Information.”

Tutoring Center: Students are encouraged to consult with tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence in any subject matter taught at the college. Tutors have been recommended by the faculty to ensure that the tutor(s) are qualified to serve the student body. Every tutor brings experience and expertise in an effort to provide the proper resources for the subject matter at hand. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Tutoring Center located on the second floor in room E203, or schedule an appointment by emailing [tutoringcenter@criswell.edu](mailto:tutoringcenter@criswell.edu) or by calling 214.818.1373.

## **Course Outline/Calendar**

### **General Description of the Subject Matter of Lectures or Discussions by Week:**

#### **Week 1**

- Class Lecture/Discussion: Syllabus/Introduction to class/ Book Introduction
- Reading Assignment: Introduction and Syllabus

#### **Week2**

- Meta Ethics: Moral Relativism Ch. 2
- Quiz 1

Week 3

- Consequentialism Ch. 6
- Quiz 2

Week 4

- Consequentialism Ch. 6
- Writing Assignment Due: Application 1: Consequentialism

Week 5

- Review
- Test 1

Week 6

- Kantian Ethic: Deontology Ch. 8
- Quiz 3

Week 7

- Kantian Ethics: Deontology Ch. 8
- Writing Assignment Due: Critical Application Due

Week 8

- Social Contract Theory Ch. 10
- Quiz 4

Week 9

- Social Contract Theory Ch. 10
- Writing Assignment: Application 2: Social Contract Theory

Week 10

- Review
- Test #2

Week 11

- Virtue Ethics Ch.11
- Quiz 5

Week 12

- Virtue Ethics Ch. 11
- Writing Assignment Due: Application 3: Virtue Ethics

Week 13

- Natural Law Theory Ch. 9

Week 14

- Test # 3 Review
- Test #3

Week 15

- Natural Law Theory and Civil Rights
- Final Review

Week 16

- Final Exam