



On-Campus Course Syllabus

PHI 301 L1

Introduction to Ethics

Fall 2024

Class Information

Day and Time: Tuesday/Thursday, 8:00AM – 9:15AM

Room Number: E153

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Barry Creamer, Ph.D.

Instructor Email: bcreamer@criswell.edu

Instructor Phone: 214-818-1326

Instructor Office Hours: Immediately before or after class, or by appointment

Course Description and Prerequisites

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

Course Objectives

Students completing this course should be able to:

1. demonstrate familiarity with the most significant ethical thinkers of Western Civilization,
2. explain important ethical theories and how they relate to each other,
3. apply ethical theories to current and practical moral challenges, and
4. evaluate ethics and moral decisions in the light of Christ, Christianity, and Biblical teachings.

Required Textbooks

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

Sibley, Jack. *Classical Ethics for Contemporary Times: A Heuristic Approach*. (This supporting text is available as a PDF in Canvas; a printed copy may be requested from the professor.)

Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Reading responses and attendance. Students are responsible for readings before the class period for which they are assigned. Attendance and participation in discussion will satisfy this requirement. Students absent from class may satisfy the requirement by completing a reading response in the space provided online. Summaries must be completed during the week the readings are due on the syllabus, and are to be completed online. Summaries should be very brief; no more than a paragraph, and should reflect what the student is able to recall from the reading without having to go back and look up details. (40% of final grade)
2. Mid-term. The mid-term is to be completed online. (30% of final grade)
3. Final Exam. The final exam is comprehensive and to be completed online. (30% of final grade)

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

Grading Scale

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

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 professors 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 grade was assigned, 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 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 professor, 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 Support

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.

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. Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through the Dean of Students, at deanofstudents@criswell.edu.

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, go to the library website, or email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu.

Writing Center: Students are encouraged to consult with writing tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence by practicing techniques of clear and effective writing. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Writing Center located on the first floor near the Computer Lab, or they can schedule an appointment by emailing writingcenter@criswell.edu or calling 214.818.1373.

Course Outline/Calendar

Date	Topic	Assignment
8/20	Introduction to the course	
	A model of ethics and morality	
8/22	Some applied ethical issues	Student Observations
8/27	Classical Virtue	Sibley on Plato
8/29		Sibley on Aristotle
9/3	Classical Hedonism and Stoicism	Sibley on Epicurus
9/5		Sibley on Epictetus
9/10	Christian Virtue	Sibley on Aquinas
9/12	Social Contract 1	Sibley on Hobbes
9/17	Altruism	Sibley on Butler
9/19	Emotivism	Sibley on Hume
9/24	Utilitarianism	Sibley on Mill
9/26	Mid-Term Exam Review	Mid-Term Exam Open
10/1	Mid-Term Exam Due	Mid-Term Exam Due (before class)
10/3	Existentialism	Sibley on Kierkegaard
10/8	Power	Sibley on Nietzsche
10/10	Deontology	Sibley on Kant
10/15	Student Development Week	
10/17		
10/22	Euthyphro, Realism, Nihilism, Divine Command	Kant Groundwork, chapter 1
10/24	Duty	
10/29	Categorical Imperative	Kant Groundwork, chapter 2
10/31	Divine Command 2	
11/5	Autonomy	Kant Groundwork, chapter 3
11/7		
11/12	Deontology 2 and Principlism	Sibley on Ross
11/14	Moral Dilemmas and Depravity	
11/19	Social Contract 2	Sibley on Rawls
11/21		Select Readings from Rawls
11/26	Rights and Obligations	
11/28	Conflicts of Interest	
12/3	Summation and Broader Application	Student Observations
12/5	Review for Final Exam	Final Exam Open
12/12	Final Exam	Final Exam Due