

Department of Philosophy & Religion

PHL-225 Professional Ethics

Course Credit: 3 Credits

Prerequisites: None

Instructor:

Phone:

Office:

E-mail:

Office Hours:

Text:

Rowan, John and Zinaich, Samuel, eds. *Ethics for the Professions*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2003.

Recommended:

Bayles, Michael. *Professional Ethics*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 1989.

Description:

This course provides an overview of the notion of “ethics” and what it means to be “professional.” It describes the structure of professional relationships, and provides an account of the obligations of professionals to clients, third parties, employers, and to their profession. In the last segment of the course these ideas are applied to business, engineering, health care, counseling, teaching, law, and journalism. Case studies will be utilized throughout the course.

Learning Objectives:

- Students will describe the concept of “professional” through class participation and in written assignments.
- Students will list and discuss the fundamental moral issues of professional ethics and the role of professionals in society through class participation and exams.
- Students will list the basic moral obligations of professionals to clients, third parties, employers, and their profession through class participation and exams.
- Students will apply ethical ideas to their specific area of professional interest through a class project and presentation.

Requirements:

- Exams. Students will take four exams. The exams include both objective and essay questions on reading materials and issues. Students must take exams at the time when they are given. These exams will count as 80% of the student’s grade.

- Course Project and Paper. Students will write a 7-10 page paper on a case study or specific issue in the area of their professional interest. The paper will be associated with a “hands on” project. This paper will count as 20% of the student’s grade.
- Classroom Conduct. (a) Students must read the assigned materials, take notes in class, and participate in class exercises and discussions. Participation includes attentive listening. (b) Cell phones must be turned off, hats removed, and there must be no distractions, such as private conversations or sleeping.
- Attendance. Three late arrivals equal an absence and students may be graded down or failed for missing more than three classes. Three instances of tardiness (more than five minutes late) may be recorded as an absence. It is assumed that students who miss class also miss valuable learning experiences, and even if the excuse for absences is valid, excessive absences may result in lower grades.
- Academic Integrity. The instructor follows the University Policy for Academic Integrity. The statement of that policy is attached.

Special Circumstances:

- Missed exams. (a) For missed exams students must provide a valid written excuse. A valid excuse includes medical emergency, family emergency, job interview, obligations on a sports team, and similar extenuating circumstances. (b) The instructor will give a make-up exam (usually an essay exam) for students with valid excuses. Students who fail to provide a valid excuse or who do not make up a missed exam in a timely manner will receive a failing grade for the exam.
- Late papers. Students must turn papers in when they are due. Late papers will be graded down one letter grade per week from when they are due.

Grading:

Weights and Percentages	Final
Exam # 1	20%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Exam # 3	20%
Final Exam	20%
Essay & Project	20%

Evaluation:

93-100 = A	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	60-66 = D
90-93 = A-	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	
87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+	59 > = F

Course Schedule:

Date	
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1st Week	<u>Ethical Theory:</u> Rowan & Zinaich, "Moral Theories," pp. 11-53
2nd Week	<u>Perspectives on Professional Ethics:</u> Bayles, "What is a Profession?" pp. 56-61 Davis, "Professional Responsibility: Just Following the Rules?" pp. 62-69 Smith, "Strong Separatism in Professional Ethics," pp. 70-74 Welch, "...The Ordinariness in Professional Ethics," pp. 75-79
3rd Week	<u>Professional Obligations to Clients:</u> Faber, "Client and Professional", pp. 125-133 Alexandra & Miller, "Needs, Moral Self-Consciousness, and Professional Roles," pp. 134-139 Taylor, "The Role of Autonomy...", pp. 140-144 Armstrong, "Confidentiality: A Comparison Across the Professions," pp. 145-151 Andre, "My Client, My Enemy," pp. 152-164
4th Week	<u>Other Professional Obligations:</u> To Third Parties – Case Studies (handout) To The Profession – Research, Reform, and Respect (handout) Recommended Reading: Bayles, "Obligations to Third Parties," pp. 111-132 in Bayles Bayles, "Obligations to the Profession," pp. 166-181 in Bayles Exam
5th Week	<u>Professionals and Employers:</u> Employee obligations, employer obligations, and authority and conflict (handout) Case Studies (handout) Recommended: Bayles, "Obligations Between Professionals and Employers," in Bayles, pp. 136-161 <u>Issues Regarding Professionals and Employers:</u> Rowan, "The Moral Foundation of Employee Rights," pp. 90-96 Werhane and Radin, "Employment at Will and Due Process," pp. 96-101
6th Week	<u>Issues Regarding Professionals and Employers:</u> Lippke, "Work, Privacy, and Autonomy," pp. 101-107 Shaw, "Affirmative Action: Legal and Moral Contexts," pp. 108-115 Schultz, "Sex is the Least of It: Let's Focus Harassment Law on Work, Not Sex," pp. 115-121
7th Week	<u>Business and the Professions:</u> Freeman, "A Stakeholder Theory of the Modern Corporation," pp.

	<p>168-172</p> <p>Schlossberger, "The Moral Duties of Organizations..." 173-179</p> <p>Ebejer & Morden, "Paternalism in the Marketplace: Should a Salesman Be His Buyer's Keeper?" pp. 180-182</p> <p>Cafaro, "Environmental Ethics and the Business Professional..." pp. 189-199</p> <p>Exam</p>
8th Week	<p><u>Engineering:</u></p> <p>Moriarty, "Ethics, Ethos, and the Professions: Some Lessons from Engineering," 203-210</p> <p>Broome, "Can Engineers Hold Public Interests Paramount?" pp. 219-223</p> <p>Schlossberger, "Trade Secrets and Patents in Engineering..." pp. 224-217</p> <p>McGinn, "Optimization, Option Disclosure..." pp. 228-240</p>
9th Week	<p><u>Health Care:</u></p> <p>Emanuel, "Four Models of the Physician-Patient Relationship," pp. 241-253</p> <p>Meisel & Kuczewski, "Legal and Ethical Myths About Informed Consent," pp. 254-260</p> <p>Tuckett, "An Ethic of the Fitting: A Conceptual Framework for Nursing Practice," pp.278-281</p> <p>Chrstensen, "Physicians and Managed Care: Employee or Professionals?" pp. 298-305</p>
10th Week	<p><u>Counseling:</u></p> <p>Kupfer and Klatt, "Client Empowerment and Counselor Integrity," pp. 306-314</p> <p>Cohen, "Confidentiality, Counseling, and Clients Who Have AIDS," pp. 315-321</p> <p>Stein, "Lying and Deception in Counseling," pp. 330-335</p> <p>Exam</p>
11th Week	<p><u>Law:</u></p> <p>Taylor, "The Adversary System of Justice: An Ethical Jungle," pp. 339-343</p> <p>Pizzimenti, "Informing Clients About Limits to Confidentiality," pp. 344-348</p> <p>Cohen, "Pure Legal Advocates and Moral Agents..." pp. 349-357</p> <p>Gutmann, "Can Virtue Be Taught to Lawyers?" pp. 358-369</p>
12th Week	<p><u>Journalism:</u></p> <p>Detmer, "The Ethical Responsibility of Journalists," pp. 370-378</p> <p>Lichtenberg, "Truth, Neutrality, and Conflict of Interest," pp. 379-385</p> <p>Cohen-Almagor, "Ethical Boundaries to Media Coverage," pp. 286-393</p> <p>Thompson, "Privacy, Politics, and the Press," pp. 394-399</p> <p>Mann, "Do Journalism Ethics and Values Apply to New Media,"</p>

	pp. 400-405
13th Week	<u>Teaching:</u> Gutmann, "Democratic Education," pp. 406-417 Felicio and Pieniadz, "Ethics in Higher Education..." pp. 418-422 Brockett, "Ethics and Educator-Student Relationships," pp. 423-426 Kupperman, "...Advocacy in the Classroom..." pp. 433-439
14th Week	Student Presentations and discussions
15th Week	Student Presentations and discussions
16th Week	Final Exam