

Ethics, Philosophy 2200

Fall 2013 (8/26/13-12/16/13)

Instructor and Contact Information:

Mo Janzen, (Ph.D. Philosophy, University of Minnesota)

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to make an appointment or you have any questions or concerns about the course, in this order of preference if you can:

My email: mojanzen@gmail.com

My personal cell number: (612) 275-4650 voice, voicemail, or text message

Office hours: Mondays from 5:00- 6:00 at BPC in our classroom and by appointment. Please feel free to contact me and make arrangements to meet.

Communication Expectations: I try to always respond to email messages within 24 hours (Monday through Friday) (and it's usually much less than that). If for any reason I am going to be away from email for longer than that, I will post a message on D2L letting you know when you can expect me to be back online.

Email Etiquette: Please be sure to use the correct email address when sending me a message. If it's been more than 24 hours and there is no D2L message and you have not received a response from me, you should assume that I did not receive your message. Also, please indicate in the message subject that you are enrolled in PHIL 2500.

Course Description

This course is a practical, hands-on introduction to ethics and moral philosophy, the branch of philosophy which concerns right conduct and how we ought to live. We will ask, "What role do ethics play in my daily life? How should I live? What choices should I make? What ethical values should guide my decision-making? What would it mean for me to live good life?" These questions are very difficult and confusing. Few people, if any, have definite answers to them, yet none of us can ignore them. While we might not be able to have certainty, philosophical reflection, argument, and analysis can help us arrive at answers to complex moral problems that are reasonable and defensible. In this course you will learn how to analyze arguments in a critical and rigorous way, and we will attempt to grapple with the questions posed above in an honest and serious way.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Understand the nature of ethical inquiry and values
- Understand what makes a problem an ethical problem
- Critically assess challenges to moral philosophy
- Understand and critically assess major ethical theories
- Identify, explain, and critically assess ethical arguments
- Apply your theoretical understanding of ethics in practical situations

Linkages to HTC Learner Outcomes and Values

As a college, HTC has adopted four outcomes that every graduate will demonstrate proficiency in prior to graduation as well as six learner values that students will develop in their time at HTC. Below is a list of the HTC Learner Outcomes and Values. The ones in **bold** will specifically be addressed in this course.

HTC Learner Outcomes:

- **Oral and Written Communication**
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Technological Literacy
- Mathematical and Scientific Reasoning

HTC Learner Values:

- Professionalism
- **Cultural and Global Awareness**
- Safety and Environmental Responsibility
- Leadership and Self-Direction
- Creativity and Innovation
- **Ethical and Social Responsibility**

Course Instruction Schedule

- Our course is a face to face course. We meet each Monday from 6:00- 8:50pm in room D156.
- Login to D2L 2 times each week and check the class website for updates: <https://hennepintech.ims.mnscu.edu>
To login, use your tech id # to login to D2L and (usually) birth date YY/MM/DD as your password. Course information will also be posted on D2L.
- Class officially begins on August 26 and ends on December 16, 2013.

Texts

Weston, Anthony. *A 21st Century Ethical Toolbox*. **3rd Edition**. New York: Oxford, 2013. ISBN 978-0-19-975881-4
This book is available in the bookstore. Also, copies will be available in the each HTC library for four hour check-out.

Grading and Course Requirements

1. Learning Activities	120 points (14- 2 (drop your 2 lowest LAs) at 10 points/ activity,)
2. Chapter Reviews	210 points (14 chapter reviews each worth 15 points)
3. 2 Exams	120 points (There will be 2 exams, each worth 60 points)
3. Drafts of Project	60 points (3 drafts (1. Introduction, 2. Research, 3. Theoretical Applications), each worth 20 points)
4. Final Civic Engagement Project	200 points (5 pieces—1. Introduction, 2. Research, 3. Theoretical Applications, 4. Actions Taken, 5. Results and Reflections-- each worth 40 points)
5. Project Efolio	40 points

Total points= 750 points

- A 750- 675 points
- B 674-600 points
- C 599-525 points
- D 524-450 points
- F 449 points and below

**In general, I do not round up. Therefore, if you earn 674.5 points, you will receive a B.

Letter grades of A, B, C, D or F will be used in this course as an evaluation of student performance.

- A** - performance greatly exceeds course requirements
- B** - performance surpasses course requirements
- C** - performance meets course requirements
- D** - performance is somewhat below course requirements
- F** - performance is unsatisfactory

Further Explanation of Requirements

1. **Learning Activities:** Our class will focus on active learning. After we have learned something, we will practice it in class. You will be asked to do this either individually or in groups. I will collect your completed activities and give you credit for honest and diligent work. If you are not in class, you will not be able to turn in a Learning Activity—they are expected to be completed in class. However, I will drop your lowest 2 Learning Activities. This means you may miss two weeks of class with no penalty to your grade. Please be wise in how you plan. Learning Activities cannot be made up outside of the class in which they are given. LA's about 20% of your total grade for this class. These points are easily made if you come to class regularly.
2. **Chapter Reviews:** After you read each chapter, you will complete a chapter review on D2L under quizzes. These questions will be taken directly from each chapter. Chapter review questions will be multiple choice or True/False. You can take the chapter review up to 3 times. And, each attempt will be untimed. This means that it is possible for you to get a perfect score on chapter reviews. Your score will be determined by how much time and attention you put into each review. Some weeks, you will need to complete 2 chapter reviews because we will cover two chapters in the reading. Each review will be worth 15 points. Chapter reviews all together are worth over 25% of your overall grade.
3. **Exams:** You will have 2 exams. The first exam will cover the first half of our semester. The second exam will cover the second half. Each exam is worth 60 points.
4. **Drafts of Project:** Drafts of the Project have two goals. The first goal is to give you a chance to practice your writing for the final project. I will give you feedback and explain to you what you need to correct in order to improve your grade. You will draft 3 of the 5 parts of the final civic engagement project—1. Introduction, 2. Research, 3. Theoretical Applications. The second goal is to break apart a large project into smaller, more manageable steps. In my experience, students who take the drafts seriously and put in effort, do very well on their final projects. The requirements for each draft are listed described in the project assignment sheet. I will also post about this under announcements. Each draft should be 1-2 double spaced pages (12 point, font, 1 inch margins) and submitted in the Dropbox in the correct folder in D2L or brought to class.
5. **Final Civic Engagement Project:** In this class, we will work on a civic engagement project. This project is an investigation of the relationship between applied ethics and issues affecting the community in which we live. You may work as an individual or in a small group. This is NOT a research project. This is a doing project—where you will do something to make the world a better place. Throughout the semester, you are expected to work about 10-15 hours on this project. At the end of your project, you will turn in five parts to your project. You will

draft the first three and write 2 more for the final project. The 5 parts of the project are: 1. Introduction, 2. Research, 3. Theoretical Applications, 4. Actions Taken, and 5. Results and Reflections.

6. **Civic Engagement Project Efolio:** At the end of your project, you will turn in an Efolio to present your project to the class, and perhaps the larger HTC community. I will hand out more detailed instructions. Your efolio should contain pictures showing what you did for your project. An "A" efolio will have a one minute video explaining your project. You will post your video to your efolio (You can do this via a link to YouTube or by embedding it into your efolio). Your video can be humorous or serious. Your video should serve as an explanation of what you did and who was affected by your project. I will give you a detailed rubric that explains how the efolio will be graded.
7. **Late work:** Late work is generally not accepted without prior approval of the instructor and in rare circumstances. If you have missed a deadline, you must present me with an extremely good argument explaining why I should accept your late work. An extremely good argument will be one that uses the material from the course to demonstrate that late assignments should be offered and the instructor will determine if said argument is sufficient for this purpose.
8. **Lectures:** Each week we will discuss the material in class. I will use lecture notes, but we will also use small group discussions, video clips, and other interactive techniques. Your regular attendance in class will help you learn. However, I will post notes for you and you can find these under the Content section of D2L for each week. Sometimes, I will also post additional notes under Announcements on D2L. Make sure to check the Announcements every week.
9. **Attendance:** I do not have an official grade for attendance. But, you are expected to attend class regularly. This class is more fun when we work together. We will also complete Learning Activities during class time. Of course, our lives are busy and we may sometimes get sick or have other commitments. **Because I allow you to drop 2 LA's, I will NOT accept LA's when you miss class.** Thus, you must plan accordingly and use these 2 chances wisely. You will also be responsible for making sure you understand what we covered in class while you were away.
10. **My Role as Instructor:** My role as an instructor is to provide you an opportunity to learn the material. If you do not understand something or are confused, please let me know. I will do my best to explain things clearly and let you know what is expected of you. I want you to succeed in this course and I am available to help you! We will work together to help you master the material. Be sure to advocate for yourself. So, you have a responsibility to voice your questions. In my experience, students who put in effort, attend class regularly, turn in assignments, and ask questions when they are confused can succeed in this class.
11. **Writing:** When you write anything for this class, be sure to use correct grammar and write in complete sentences. Please do not use "texting" language in an academic setting. When you write a paper, be sure that it is double spaced and 12 point font with 1 inch margins. Also, you can write your name and the class on the top of the paper, but no other information is necessary. If you need help, I encourage you to visit the Learning Resource Center or Writing Center on each campus.

Other Important Items

Class Expectations of Students

Student responsibilities include:

- Regular communication with instructor about concerns about the class
- Regularly checking e-mail (2-3 times a week) and the class D2L site
- Working cooperatively with other students
- Positive attitude with students, faculty and staff

Last Day of Attendance (LDA) Reporting

From the HTC Catalog: "Attendance is required for students receiving financial aid. Financial aid recipients who do not attend their courses will have an adjustment made to their aid. The aid adjustment could result in a balance due to the college and a late charge. In some cases, there may not be a change in the aid because the student's new credit level is still within the award's credit range. Students who have received an award letter and do not plan on attending must drop their courses before the fifth (5th) day of the term."

- As an instructor, I am required to report if a student never attends class or stops attending class.
- If at any point in the semester you have not contacted me or participated in a class in **two weeks**, I will enter an LDA which permanently drops you from the class for the semester.

Last Date to withdraw from a course

There is a 5 day free add/drop period (first 5 days of the semester, NOT 5 days from the course start date). In order to receive a full tuition refund you must drop during this 5 day period. Students may drop a course at any time during the semester except during the last ten school days of the semester, excluding Saturdays. If a course has concluded, a drop is no longer possible.

Incomplete Policy Hennepin Technical College offers an "Incomplete" grade at the discretion of the instructor. However, if you are considering this option, you must discuss it with your instructor first; otherwise, a student will receive the grade they have earned up to the point they stopped doing the work.

Student Handbook and Calendar

The Student Handbook is available at the front reception areas or in front of the bookstore. It contains information you need to know about HTC, such as transferring credits, test –outs, tuition and fees, refunds, determining your GPA, emergency closing information and the school calendar.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is regarded as a serious offense by all members of our academic community. It tarnishes the reputation of HTC we well as discredits the accomplishments of students. HTC is committed to providing its students every possible opportunity to develop their skills, but learning can only take place in an environment of trust, honesty, and fairness. All faculty, staff, and students are expected to participate in maintaining the highest level of academic integrity. To this end,

1. Students are expected to do their own work unless advised that collaboration is acceptable.
2. Anytime you quote directly from another source or paraphrase substantially, you must cite the source you used. Failure to use proper citation procedure is considered plagiarism. Plagiarism will result in a grade of "0" if it is flagrant and/or deliberate. Copying from another person's paper or test is academic dishonesty and will result in a grade of "0".
3. Plagiarism and cheating are both serious offenses and may be punished by failure on exam, paper or project; reduction in final grade, and/or failure in course. Disciplinary sanctions may be forthcoming in accordance with the college misconduct policy. For more information refer to the "Student Conduct" policy in the Student Handbook (pp. 68-9).
4. For information about how to cite sources correctly, please check these resources:
<http://www2.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workshop/citapa.htm> or
<http://www2.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workshop/citmla.htm>

Professionalism

An expectation for this class is that each student will promote and exhibit personal, professional and academic ethics. Faculty has the authority to remove disruptive students from the classroom with re-admittance at the discretion of the instructor. The following characteristics will be assessed:

- Demonstrate respect for others
- Accept responsibility for your own actions
- Display honesty and integrity
- Understand and apply the ethical standards consistent with professional work environment

Respect

Everyone in class should show respect for fellow classmates, the instructor and the facilities. If a student is disrespectful, s/he will be asked to leave the classroom, and only the instructor can readmit the student.

Maintaining a respectful environment includes:

1. Avoiding put downs, insults or public displays of hostility to anyone in the classroom.
2. Adhering to the College's policy on Harassment/Discrimination/Violence.
3. Contributing to a comfortable, supportive learning environment for faculty, students, staff and administrators.
4. Respecting the equipment and facilities of HTC by picking up or removing trash.
5. Respecting furniture by straightening chairs, putting paper in the recycling bin, and turning off all equipment in the room.

Academic Misconduct - other academically dishonest acts such as tampering with grades, taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of an assessment, or selling or buying products such as papers, research, projects or other artifacts that document achievement of learning outcomes.

Academic Difficulty

If you need assistance with your coursework, you have several options:

1. Make an appointment to meet with me. I have office hours each week from 4-5:00 in room E152 at EP. Also, I would be happy to make an appointment to meet with you.
2. Look for help from tutors in the LRC (Learning Resource Center).
3. If you are a student with a major in another area, find out who your faculty advisor is and speak with them about your situation. The faculty advisors are the content and award experts and will help guide you to graduation.

Special Accommodations

Hennepin Technical College values diversity in our college community and is committed to ensuring equal access and opportunity to qualified students with physical, learning, or psychological disabilities. The Disability Services Office assists students, and HTC faculty and staff, to provide access to our programs, services and activities.

ADA Statement

I wish to fully include persons with disabilities in this course. Please let me know if you need any special accommodations in the curriculum, instruction, or assessments of this course to enable you to fully participate. I will maintain the confidentiality of the information you share with me. Please access the HTC Support Services Office for assistance.

Support Services

If you have academic concerns, talk to an advisor or your instructor. For personal concerns, contact a counselor.

Counseling services include career information, determination of major, selection of first semester courses, Career Development Services, referral to the Disability Services Coordinator, and personal counseling. For more information, contact the Counseling Office in Brooklyn Park at 763.488.2579 or in Eden Prairie at 952.995.1450.

The Learning Resources Center offers students of Hennepin Technical College a positive learning environment for all students in technical college programs. If you wish free assistance, make an appointment with a tutor in the Learning Resource Center; telephone 763.488.2451.

Technology/Internet

E-Mail

Students are encouraged to activate their e-mail account through Microsoft Live. This is the official college communication tool. You are expected to check e-mail every few days and D2L NEWS. The new e-mail format is lastname00X@My.HennepinTech.edu and you will have access to 25 GB of free online storage with Live SkyDrive plus Web Apps as companions to Word, Excel, Powerpoint and One Note.

To activate your **myHennepinTech** email account, click on the **myHennepinTech** tab in the upper right hand corner of the HTC website and follow the instructions. If you have questions about your **myHennepinTech** account, please visit the Student Computer Lab at either campus.

Basic computer knowledge is required to use the computer competently for this class. Here are some guidelines for use of HTC computers.

Appropriate use of the computer includes:

- Use for academic applications and support
- Educational enrichment

If the guidelines are not followed, the student will be warned the first time. If inappropriate use continues, the student must relinquish his/her computer privileges for the year and is subject to the provisions of the HTC Student Code of Conduct.

Inappropriate use of the computer includes, but is not limited to,

- Using the computer for other than academic applications
- Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures
- Using the network for commercial purposes
- Intentionally trying to damage databases or networks
- Violating copyright or license agreements

Computer Lab Restrictions

Only registered students are allowed in the labs (no friends, family members, etc.)

Star Alert

- Hennepin Technical College has established an Emergency Notification system as part of our All Hazards planning.
- This College system is called **Star Alert™** and transmits emergency notification messages to the subscriber's cell phone and/or email system.
- This system uses real-time communications, and has optional enrollment.

<http://www.hennepintech.edu/current/star-alert.htm>

Library/IMC

Check out the HTC library online at <http://www.hennepintech.edu/current/library/index.asp>
Libraries with staff are available on both campuses. Take the HTC Library Tour (video)