

Ethics, Philosophy 2200
Summer 2013 (6/3/13-7/26/13)
Online

Instructor and Contact Information:

Monica Greenwell 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 OR

Monica.Janzen@hennepintech.edu

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

Office hours: By appointment. Please feel free to contact me and make arrangements to meet. I am also happy to meet with you via skype or phone.

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

- This is an online course. All assignments will be due on Wednesdays.
- The scheduled hours of instruction include sixteen hours for each lecture credit.
- Login to D2L daily and check the class website for NEWS: <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 June 3 and ends on July 26, 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 (You will have 8 Learning activities to be completed each week, each worth 15 points)
2. Chapter Reviews	180 points (12 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)

Total points= 680 points

- A 680- 612 points
- B 611-544 points
- C 543-476 points
- D 475-408 points
- F 407 points and below

**In general, I do not round up. Therefore, if you earn 611.5 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:** Learning Activities (LA's) will give you a chance to think about what we are learning. These will take place on the discussion board. To encourage participation and to give practice thinking and writing about religious traditions, the discussion postings will be graded based upon engagement, rather than the content of the posting. Grading on content will come in during the Chapter reviews, exams, and papers. Each posting should be at least one paragraph (about 4-5 sentences) in length. Postings that are not at least one paragraph in length will not count toward your discussion posting grade. Your responses to others should also be one paragraph. They should either further the discussion by adding information or asking questions to clarify or correct another's posting.
2. **Chapter Reviews:** After you read each chapter, you will complete a chapter review. 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 as many times as you would like. 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 28% of your overall grade.
3. **Exams:** You will have 2 exams. The first exam will cover sessions 1-4. The second exam will cover sessions 5-8. Exam questions will be multiple choice or True/False. Each exam is worth 60 points. a cumulative final exam that will be worth 60 points (30 questions at 2 points each).
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, Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins) and submitted in the Dropbox in the correct folder in D2L.
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. **Extra Credit:** You may pick ONE of the following extra credit activities.
 - You can create a one minute video explaining your project. You will then share a your video with the class (You can do this via a link to You Tube or by posting the video directly to D2L on the discussion board). 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. (15 points)
 - You can share 3-5 pictures showing what you did for your project. These pictures should provide evidence of what you did and who was affected by your project. You can upload pictures to the discussion board on D2L. (Up to 10 points, depending on how many pictures and their quality)
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:** Because this class is online, we won't have face to face lectures. I will post notes for you and you can find these under the Content section of D2L for each week. I will also post additional notes under Announcements on D2L. I will occasionally use short videos to communicate with you. Please take time to watch these! Also, make sure to check the Announcements at least 3-4 times each week.
9. **Attendance:** Because this course is online, attendance in a classroom is not necessary. Each week, you will work on the material for that week on your own, at your own pace. However, when you are asked to respond to others, please do not wait until the last minute to post your initial response. Also, you should not fall behind. To be successful in my class, you need to stay active each week with the Learning Activities, Chapter Reviews, and other assignments.
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

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>

Last Date to withdraw from a course

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.

Course Management

The work for this course will be accomplished using your textbooks and various online sources. The D2L course site will be used for just about everything that you do in the course. It is on the D2L site that you will find due dates, lecture notes, examples, and detailed instructions about what to do each week.

Technical questions regarding D2L can be answered at:

HTC D2L Help Desk – Weekdays 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. OR Email: d2lhelpdesk@hennepintech.edu

MnSCU D2L Help Desk – Sunday-Thursday 7:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m.

Friday: 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Saturday 11 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Call **1-877-GO MNSCU** or access: <https://d2l.custhelp.com>

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 as 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.

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.

Netiquette

Each member of our cyber community should expect courtesy and respect from all other members. Because it's a new and different kind of class for some, we may not realize it when we are rude or inconsiderate. There are some dos and don'ts of courteous online behavior, called "netiquette."

1. Remember the human.
2. Adhere to the same standards of behavior online that you follow in real life.
3. Know where you are in cyberspace. (Adjust your behavior to "lurk before you leap.")
4. Respect other people's time and bandwidth.
5. Make yourself look good online.
6. Share expert knowledge.
7. Help keep flame wars under control.
8. Respect other people's privacy.
9. Don't abuse your power.
10. Be forgiving of other people's mistakes.

The "Core Rules of Netiquette" quoted from NETIQUETTE by Virginia Shea as presented at <http://www.albion.com/netiquette>. Test your knowledge by completing the 10 questions.

Library/Learning Commons

Check out the HTC library online at <http://www.hennepintech.edu/library>

Libraries with staff are available on both campuses. The main Library phone numbers for each campus are: BP Library – 763-488-2929, EP Library – 952-995-5200

E-Mail

Students are encouraged to activate their e-mail account through **Office365 as of June 3, 2013**. This is the official college communication tool. You are expected to check e-mail every few days. The e-mail format is lastnameXXX@My.HennepinTech.edu and you will have access to free online storage with SkyDrive plus Web Apps as companions to Word, Excel, Powerpoint and One Note.

Academic Difficulty

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

1. Make an appointment to meet with me. I'm happy to help!
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 offers reasonable accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, contact the college's Disability Services Director: Brooklyn Park at 763-488-2477 or Eden Prairie at 952-995-1544.

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.

Student Computer Labs are available at the Brooklyn Park and Eden Prairie Campuses. All students who use the computer labs need to display a valid college I.D. when entering the lab.

Centers for Student Achievement

- Free walk-in tutoring **or by appointment**
- Staffed by trained peer tutors, professional tutors, and faculty
- Individual sessions, group sessions, and workshops

Visit the Learning Resource Centers:

Brooklyn Park Campus - Room G241 Phone 763.488.2451

Eden Prairie Campus - Room E150 Phone 952-995-1548

Visit the Math Centers:

Brooklyn Park Campus - Room G227 Phone 763-488-2592

Eden Prairie Campus - Room D125 Phone 952-995-1357

Visit the Writing Centers:

Brooklyn Park Campus - Room G221 Phone 763-488-2467

Eden Prairie Campus - Room D125 Phone 952-995-1495

ONLINE LEARNING

Online Learner Role and Responsibilities

- You are responsible for your own learning.
- You are responsible for all assigned activities. Be punctual with due dates.
- You should share your ideas and experiences with peers and the instructor. The more you participate, the more you will learn and enjoy the experience.
- You must meet deadlines for completing assignments and postings.

To get the most out of Online Learning

Take charge of your own learning by

- Raising questions, probing, exploring and finding what you need.
- Be open. Use your imagination, consider new possibilities, and create something new.
- Give as well as receive. Give to your co-learners and you will receive a great deal from them. This class is designed to be an active and interactive experience in which you contribute and respond to the contributions of others.
- Have fun. Plan to thoroughly enjoy this opportunity to learn and to grow in your professional competence and satisfaction.

Online Course - Attendance

- You are expected to show-up online for discussions, assignments, and to take exams.
- You should plan to log on and participate in the course at least 3-5 times each week. Your instructor will monitor your participation by recording the date of each entry you make to the system--a response to an assignment, an entry into the threaded discussion, or submission of an assignment or quiz.
- You should not "drop out" for a period of time and then expect to "drop back in." If your business/personal obligations or illness require you to be absent for a week, please contact me and arrange to make up the work you will miss. Since you can access this online course from anywhere in the world, there should be little likelihood of "absence."

Communicating in an Online Learning Community

In a cyber community, you present yourself and learn about others through written words, so you should present yourself in a positive light and communicate your thoughts and ideas effectively. Here are guidelines to ensure that others understand you, that you communicate effectively, that you are respectful of the feelings of others, and that you appear professional.

1. Format your posting so that it is easy to read: Use short paragraphs separated by blank lines. Don't write everything in uppercase (capital) letters. It is difficult to read and, even worse, in an online environment, it means you are SHOUTING.
2. Be brief. Plan your messages ahead so that you don't ramble.
3. Be clear. Don't use abbreviations or acronyms that others may not understand. Read your messages over before sending them.
4. Check your spelling. To appear professional and be taken seriously, you need to spell accurately. Use your computer's Spell Check features; then read over what you have written to catch errors that Spell Check misses.
5. When you are interacting with others online, be sure that your tone is diplomatic and polite. Your reader can't interpret your feelings, so be sure that your writing does not "sound" harsh or unfriendly. Read your

messages over to check your tone.

Online - Instructor Role and Responsibilities

As your instructor, I am responsible for :

- providing an environment for you to learn in
- assisting you in your quest for understanding
- being a resource person and facilitator
- organizing the course, scheduling learning activities, and evaluating your learning process
- monitoring threaded discussions online
- responding to e-mails within 24 hours of the time they were posted Monday through Friday
- considering carefully your work and contributions to class

NOTE: The information contained in this syllabus should be considered our mutual contract. If you have any questions, please contact me early in the semester to discuss them.