
Instructor: Dr. Mo Janzen (monica.janzen@anokaramsey.edu)

Office Hours: I can be found in person on the Coon Rapids campus (room H140) Tuesdays from 1:00-2:00 and Thursdays from 12:00-2:00. You can call me during these times on my office phone: 763-422-6163. I am also available by appointment and can arrange to meet you online.

Required Book: Weston, Anthony. *A 21st Century Ethical Toolbox*. 3rd Edition. New York: Oxford, 2013. ISBN 978-0-19-975881-4. Other reading will be available on D2L under Content.

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.

We will look at numerous real life cases and analyze various values that are, or ought to be, involved in the decision-making process. We will use a variety of ethical theories and approaches to help us find resolutions to ethical questions.

This is a seated class, which means we will meet face to face each week. Your regular attendance is crucial to our class community and your learning. Class time will be divided between lectures and discussions. The latter will take a variety of forms: small and large group discussions, class presentations, go-arounds, and reflective writing exercises. However, we will also use D2L/Brightspace as an extension of our class. I look forward to working with you and creating an environment where we all can learn. Please let me know if there are any ways in which I can help facilitate a fruitful learning experience with you.

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

Grading and Course Requirements

1. Learning Activities	130 points (15- 2 (drop your 2 lowest LAs) at 10 points/ activity,)
2. Reading Quizzes	100 points (22-2 (drop your 2 Lowest quizzes) at 5 points/quiz)
3. 2 Exams	200 points (There will be 2 exams, each worth 100 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 & Presentation	50 points

Total points= 740 points

A	740-666 points
B	665-592 points
C	591-518 points
D	517-444 points
F	443 points and below

**In general, I do not round up. Therefore, if you earn 665.5 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. You will have a LA at least once/week, and maybe more. 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. Learning Activities cannot be made up. However, I will drop your lowest 2 Learning Activities. LA's about 20% of your total grade for this class. These points are easily made if you come to class regularly.
2. **Reading Quizzes:** I will give you a short quiz at least once a week. I will test to see if you have done the reading assigned for that day. I will drop your 2 lowest quiz grades, so you may miss two quizzes per

semester without any penalty. I will give you a short quiz on the readings at the beginning of class on a regular basis. To do well on the quiz, look at the following tips while reading:

- a. The main points (label these clearly & summarize them in your own words).
 - b. All the key concepts (try writing down the definition of each of these).
 - c. Examples given.
 - d. If there is a short anecdote or story in the reading, identify the main point of that story.
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. They will be multiple choice, T/F and essay questions. Each exam is worth 100 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. Investigations, 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 described in the project assignment sheet. Each draft should be about 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 25 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. Investigations, 3. Theoretical Applications, 4. Actions Taken, and 5. Accomplishments.
 6. **Civic Engagement Project Efolio and Presentation:** At the end of our semester, you will turn in an Efolio and present your project to the class. Your efolio will be an “online” presentation of your project that will include video and pictures. We’ll spend a day in class working on efolios. I will give you a detailed rubric that explains how the efolio will be graded. Your short presentation to the class will show off the work you did for your project! Your presentation will be about 5 minutes. You will show the class your efolio (including video and pictures) and explain what you did. I will give a detailed rubric for the presentation as the due date approaches.
 7. **Late work:** Late work is discouraged. If you have missed a deadline, contact me immediately and place your late work in the late folder under Dropbox on D2L with an explanation. I will decide whether late work will be accepted.
 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 and quizzes 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 and quizzes, I will NOT accept LA's or quizzes 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 Academic Support Center on each campus.

Academic Integrity Statement: Academic integrity is very important to an institution of learning. *If a student engages in conduct which compromises the academic integrity of this course (by, for example, copying work from a book or the Internet without proper MLA or APA citation or by sharing answers to the exams), s/he will fail the assignment and you may also receive a full grade drop for this course.* Due process guidelines are followed in such cases per the college policy. As such, I will notify students of the charges and evidence in writing (through an email to your college account), and you do have the opportunity to respond to these charges. Students are then notified of course consequences and a written summary of findings will be forwarded to the Dean of Educational Services. Please read Anoka-Ramsey's "Student Conduct Code" in your Student Handbook regarding *additional* consequences that may be imposed by the college according to their academic dishonesty policy. Disciplinary actions are detailed in the Student Handbook. Our library has a website with resources on citation, in case you need some explanation on proper citation; see Academic Support Center below for this as well.

Academic Support Center: The Academic Support Center is a resource on campus intended to support students through free drop-in tutoring in most subjects taught at Anoka-Ramsey. It also offers an on-site computer lab, study skills support, and student success workshops.

Religious Accommodations: If you need course accommodations because of a religious holiday, please let me know at the beginning of the term. I am happy to make arrangements for you if you give me this notice.

Disability Statement: If you need course adaptations because of a documented disability, please provide me with your instructions per the Student Success Center. If you do not yet have those, please contact them in order to pursue this and let me know that you are working on this. I am happy to work with you on this as needed.