

Experiments in Ethics, Spring2021

Summary of Experiments

Experiment	Due	Task	Student examples	Rationale for Assignment
Change Making Letter	2/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Identify an ethical issue that personally affects you</li> <li>-Identify a specific person who can do something about that issue</li> <li>-Write a letter making an argument for the change that needs to be made</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Student writes to elders at her place of worship asking for dancing policy changes</li> <li>-Student writes to high school principal suggesting equitable dress code policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Develops skills for philosophical argumentation</li> <li>-Connects philosophical arguments to student lives</li> <li>-Invites examination about actions that may lead to changes</li> </ul>
Change a habit or develop a virtue	2/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Identify a virtue or habit to cultivate or change</li> <li>-For 7 days, work to make this change</li> <li>-Provide documentation of actions and write a reflection connecting actions to course materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Students try planning meals to avoid eating out</li> <li>-Students limit their use of phones</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Creates space for specific reflection on self as ethical agent</li> <li>-Allows students to think about philosophy as both public and private</li> </ul>
Research	3/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Come up with an idea for your Organize an Activity</li> <li>-Research similar projects and provide notes</li> <li>-Research needed resources and provide notes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Students form groups</li> <li>-Students learn how to make room reservations and follow campus poster guidelines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Provides direction and ideas for students</li> <li>-Helps students organize their ideas and time before the Organize an Activity is due</li> </ul>
Volunteer Activity	3/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Identify organization(s) that makes changes</li> <li>-Volunteer at least 4 hours</li> <li>-Provide documentation of actions and write a reflection connecting actions to course materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Students pack food for those in hunger</li> <li>-Students walk dogs at animal shelters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Differentiate volunteering for an organization and organizing an activity</li> </ul>
Charitable Giving Investigations	4/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Compare a familiar organization with a charity recommended by Peter Singer</li> <li>-Provide notes on research</li> <li>-Give an argument for where Professor's money should be donated and connect to Peter Singer's arguments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Students compare an organization suggested by Singer (Oxfam International, Against Malaria Fund, etc) to one they are familiar with (Red Cross, Make a Wish Foundation, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Provides flexibility to address specific concepts in depth</li> </ul>

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<p>Organize an Activity</p>	<p>4/26</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Identify an issue</li> <li>-Organize an action to make a positive change</li> <li>- Provide documentation of actions and write a reflection connecting actions to course materials</li> <li>-Create an electronic portfolio, a 1-minute video, and tips for next semester's students</li> <li>-Present to the class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Student organizes a walk to benefit an organization working on ending eating disorders</li> <li>-Student organizes shoe collection for a local organization benefitting people experiencing homelessness</li> </ul>	<p>-Allows students to draw on lessons learned earlier in the semester (scaffolding) before initiating an activity</p>
<p>Letter to Future Students</p>	<p>5/3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Reflect on the objectives for the Experiments in Ethics</li> <li>-Write a letter, drawing on any relevant class materials discussing the pros and cons of the assignment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-“After taking this course, I have a more positive outlook on volunteering and charity as whole. I see just how truly accessible change is to an individual, and that gives me hope for the future of the world.”</li> <li>-“Overall, I think that the experiments in ethics definitely opened my eyes to things I would not have considered to care about if I had not taken this class.”</li> </ul>	<p>-Allows students to make connections across course content and unite experiments as a singular assignment</p>