

SYLLABUS  
PART I  
EDISON COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
PHI 123S INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS  
3 CREDIT HOURS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to the problem of moral conduct, right and wrong, and good and evil. Classical and contemporary theories are examined as the basis for dealing with contemporary moral concerns with selected problems of individual choice, political decisions, and social institutions.

COURSE GOALS

The student will:

1. Have a basic understanding of moral philosophy.
2. Be able to explain the theories of ethics that systematize reasons why we should do what we ought.
3. Be able to examine ethical problems as to the most plausible reasons for and against proposed solutions to the end that one might make better decisions.
4. Be aware that the problems of ethics bear upon everyday living and that it is, therefore, the case that a meaningful existence will be one in which an understanding of ethics is gained.
5. Be able to reason about ethics in a disciplined way.
6. Develop the capacity for critical thinking, reading, and writing.
7. Develop critical understanding of some moral theories as applied to certain concrete issues.

CORE VALUES

The Core Values are a set of principles which guide in creating educational programs and environments at Edison. They include communication, ethics, critical thinking, human diversity, inquiry/respect for learning, and interpersonal skills/teamwork. The goals, objectives, and activities in this course will introduce/reinforce these Core Values whenever appropriate.

TOPIC OUTLINE

1. The Nature of Moral Philosophy
2. Freedom of the Will and Determinism
3. The Good: Classical Philosophy
4. Utilitarianism
5. Deontologicalism: Categorical Imperative, Christian Ethics
6. Existentialism
7. Political Philosophy
8. Examination of Contemporary Moral Problems
9. Social Contract Theory
10. Social, Economic Justice