

Sul Ross State University

Introduction to Ethics
PHIL 2306 Course Syllabus – Spring 2025

Course Title: Introduction to Ethics
Class Times: Tuesdays & Thursdays (1:45 to 3:00 pm)
Required Text: *Living Ethics: An Introduction with Readings* by Russ Shafer-Landau
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The systematic evaluation of classical and/or contemporary ethical theories concerning the good life, human conduct in society, morals, and standards of value.

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLO)

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PSLO 1	Describe and critically analyze chief doctrines, theories, and ideas of the great philosophers of the past and present.
PSLO 2	Demonstrate critical thinking by recognizing good and bad arguments and constructing cogent and sound arguments to defend or refute philosophical views.
PSLO 3	Demonstrate proficient writing skills.
PSLO 4	Demonstrate proficient reading comprehension skills of philosophical texts.
PSLO 5	Develop original arguments on philosophical issues that fairly consider different and opposing perspectives.
PSLO 6	Evaluate how philosophical concepts, ideas, theories, and principles affect one's obligations to others and society.

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	CSLO	PSLO
2306 CSLO 1	Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts	PSLO 1 and 4
2306 CSLO2	Define and appropriately use important terms such as relativism, virtue, duty, rights, utilitarianism, natural law, egoism, altruism, autonomy, and care ethics.	PSLO 1 and 4
2306 CSLO3	Demonstrate knowledge of major arguments and problems in ethics.	PSLO 2 and 5
2306 CSLO 4	Present and discuss well-reasoned ethical positions in writing.	PSLO 3 and 5
2306 CSLO 5	Apply ethical concepts and principles to address moral concerns.	PSLO 5 and 6
2306 CSLO 6	Apply course material to various aspects of life.	PSLO 5 and 6
2306 CSLO 7	Discuss ways of living responsibly in a world where people have diverse ethical beliefs.	PSLO 6

Course Conduct. Refer to the Student Conduct and Discipline section of the [SRSU Student Handbook](#).

SRSU Disability Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartze Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator, at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartz@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall – room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832. For more information, see: <https://www.sulross.edu/counseling-and-accessibility-services/>

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine. Offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or by phone (432-837-8123).

Academic Honesty. Any instance of academic misconduct such as (1) turning in an identical written assignment for another course without approval, (2) copying from any source without proper citation, (3) crossing the boundary of what is allowed in a group project, (4) lying in connection with your academic work, (5) cheating, (6) plagiarism, (7) misrepresenting facts and/or collusion are contrary to the purpose of any educational institution and will be dealt with **most severely** to the extent of the university's disciplinary policy and/or through legal action if indicated. An instructor who determines that a student has been dishonest academically can, at a minimum, issue no credit for the assignment/exam and/or pursue more severe penalties, including but not limited to failing the course. Before the penalty is imposed, the student has the right to appeal to the division chairperson or Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs. Further information about *Academic Honesty* can be read in the [SRSU Student Handbook](#), and procedures for dealing with these acts are outlined in the [Academic Honesty Policy](#) under Undergraduate Academic Regulations.

Class Participation. This is a course that requires class participation. You should read the assignments before coming to class. You are encouraged to ask questions about the material to get a deeper insight or to understand concepts or philosophical problems better.

Class Attendance. The SRSU Undergraduate Academic Regulations policy governs attendance stated in the schedule of classes. If you are unable to participate online and in class frequently (every week), please discuss the reason with me and arrange to review the online notes, handouts, or assignments you may have missed. Excused absences entail established religious observance or providing emergency, university-authorized, legal, or medical documentation. **Excessive unexcused absences (more than 2 weeks) will result in a failing grade for the course.** Most of the course curriculum is fully online.

Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies on academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the [Student Handbook](#).

Regular communications with the professor: You must keep me updated on your progress and any difficulties you may have so I can respond in real-time to support your success. The most efficient way of contacting me is through email: bernie.cantens@sulross.edu. General questions are to be posted to a discussion board for all. For personal or private issues, please email me or make an appointment. I will respond as soon as possible. Please resend your email if you do not receive a reply within 24 hours during the work week.

Course Behaviors - Respect and Disruptions. Watch the VIDEO on NETTIQUETTE - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWMk_Zv7nB8 and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80uRE972uQ0>. You are encouraged and expected to openly engage in discussions, ask questions, share ideas, and express your thoughts in this web-based course in the same manner as in a face-to-face course. Please treat each other with dignity and respect and avoid disruptive behaviors. You are responsible for knowing what behaviors are acceptable versus unacceptable, as referred to in the Student Conduct and Discipline section of the SRSU Student Handbook (http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/stulife/student_conduct_discipline.pdf).

Cell phone and computer use. You should be fully engaged in the class’s activity during the entire class period. Laptop computers or phones are welcome for academic purposes, such as note-taking or following along with the instructor’s lesson. Off-topic activity (e.g., reading texts or posts, checking email, game playing) not directly related to the class is considered highly disrespectful. It will be noted and can result in being marked “absent” for the day.

Late Assignments. You are expected to meet the deadlines. Assignments submitted after their due dates without a legitimate excuse will be marked down 25%

Grading. Students are expected to complete reading assignments before class sessions and engage in thoughtful discussions considering these assignments. In addition, students will take an in-class midterm and an in-class final exam (objective short answer, multiple choice and/or essay).

Weekly Quizzes	20 points (10 quizzes @ 2 points each) Due every Friday at 11:59 PM
Weekly Essays	20 points (10 essays @ 2 points each) Due every Friday at 11:59 PM
1 Exam	15 Points. Thursday, March 13, 2025.
2 Exam	15 Points. Final exam week: May 2 (Friday) and May 5-7 (Monday through Wednesday).
1 Reflection Paper	15 points. Due on Friday, March 7, 2025
2 Reflection Paper	15 Points. Due on Friday, May 2, 2025
TOTAL	100 points

Course Outline

(This schedule and the topics listed below are subject to modification by the instructor.)

PART I MORAL THEORY		
DATE	READINGS	HOMEWORK
Week 1 Jan 16	Chapter 1: <i>What is Morality?</i>	
Week 2 Jan. 21 & 23	Chapter 1: <i>What is Morality?</i>	Quiz 1 Due on Friday, January 24, by 11:59 PM Essay 1 Due on Friday, January 24, by 11:59 PM
Week 3 Jan. 28 & 30	Chapter 2 – <i>Moral Reasoning</i>	Quiz 2 Due on Friday, January 31, by 11:59 PM Essay 2 Due on Friday, January 3,1 by 11:59 PM
Week 4 Feb. 4 & 6	Chapter 3 – <i>Skepticism about Morality</i>	Quiz 4 Due on Friday, February 14, by 11:59 PM Essay 4 Due on Friday February 14, by 11:59 PM
Week 5 Feb. 11 & 13	Chapter 4 – <i>The Good Life</i>	Quiz 4 Due on Friday, February 14, by 11:59 PM Essay 4 Due on Friday, February 14, by 11:59 PM
		Quiz 5 Due on Friday, February 21, by 11:59 PM

Week 6 Feb. 18 & 20	Chapter 5 – <i>Consequentialism</i>	Essay 5 Due on Friday, February 21, by 11:59 PM
Week 7 Feb. 25 & 27	Chapter 6 – <i>Kantian Ethics</i>	Quiz 6 Due on Friday, February 2,8 by 11:59 PM Essay 6 Due on Friday, February 28, by 11:59 PM
Week 8 March 4 & 6	Review	Reflection Paper 1 Due on March 7 by 11:59 PM
Week 9 March 11 & 13	Midterm Exam In class	
Spring Break March 18 & 20		
Week 10 March 25 & 27	Chapter 10 Virtue Ethics	Quiz 7 Due on Friday, March 28, by 11:59 PM Essay 7 Due on Friday, March 2,8 by 11:59 PM
PART II APPLIED ETHICS		
Week 11 April 1 & 3	Chapter 12 Abortion	Quiz 8 Due on Friday, April 4, by 11:59 PM Essay 8 Due on Friday, April 4 11:59 PM
Week 12 April 8 & 10	Chapter 13 Animals	Quiz 8 Due on Friday, April 4, by 11:59 PM Essay 8 Due on Friday, April 4 11:59 PM
Week 13 April 15 & 17	Globalization and Immigration	Quiz 10 Due on Friday, April 1,8 by 11:59 PM Essay 10 Due on Friday, April 1,8 by 11:59 PM
Week 14 April 22 & 24	Students choose	Quiz 10 Due on Friday, April 1,8 by 11:59 PM Essay 10 Due on Friday, April 1,8 by 11:59 PM
Week 15 April 29	Last Day Review	Reflection Paper 2 Friday, May 2 by 11:59
May 2, 5-8	Final Exam in Class	