

Fall 2015

## PHIL 2201

Clarence Mark Phillips  
*University of New Orleans*

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### Recommended Citation

Phillips, Clarence Mark, "PHIL 2201" (2015). *University of New Orleans Syllabi*. Paper 926.  
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Syllabus  
The University of New Orleans  
Dept. of Philosophy

**PHIL 2201: Ethics** (3 credits)

**SECTIONS 476 & 585**

**Contact  
Information**

**Instructor:** Dr. Clarence Mark Phillips  
**Office:** UNO: LA 391  
**Office / Mobile:** (504) 280-6659  
**Email:** [cmphilli@uno.edu](mailto:cmphilli@uno.edu) (add 'PHIL 2201' to subject line)  
**Course Webpages:** [Moodle](#) login page

**Required  
Texts**

- [1] Lewis Vaughn – Doing Ethics: Moral Reasoning & Contemporary Issues
- [2] Russ Shafer-Landau – The Fundamentals of Ethics (Oxford U. Press, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.).
- [3] (Recommended)  
Hugo Bedau - Thinking and Writing about Philosophy and/or  
Zachary Seech - Writing Philosophy Papers (on reserve in UNO Library).

**Course Description**

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** A study of concepts of right and wrong, good and evil, and their grounds.

**COURSE OVERVIEW:** Ethics is the study of right and wrong action, of what makes some ways of acting good or bad, moral or immoral. Since the time of Socrates, philosophers have sought criteria for determining how, when, and why an act can be judged to be “ethical” or “unethical”. This course will be a survey of those attempts, from such ancient writers as Plato and Aristotle, through the medieval writings of Augustine and Aquinas, and onto modern thinkers like Kant and the Utilitarians. Ultimately, our goal will be to see which, if any, of these thinkers is right about how to determine the ethics of human behavior.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to do the following:

- to recognize ethical issues.
- to know the various subfields of ethics and the sorts of questions dealt with by philosophers in those areas.
- to know how to form arguments.
- to know the views of proponents of various ethical positions.
- to understand the philosophical issues associated with definitions of ethical terms.
- to identify key figures in the history of Ethics.
- to understand the nature of philosophical argumentation.
- to present and to defend your own views regarding the above issues.
- to read philosophical texts.
- to recognize philosophical questions.
- to define key concepts in philosophical thought.
- to write an argumentative essay on some topic in the field of Ethics.

Grades will be based on a 500 point scale distributed as follows:

Requirement		Final grade	
<b>Exam 1</b>	(20%) 100 points	<b>A</b>	450 - 500 points
<b>Exam 2</b>	(20%) 100 points	<b>B</b>	400 - 449 points
<b>Exam 3</b>	(20%) 100 points	<b>C</b>	350 - 399 points
<b>Exam 4</b>	(20%) 100 points	<b>D</b>	300 - 349 points
<b>Term Paper</b>	(20%) 100 points	<b>F</b>	0 - 299 points
<b>Total</b>	500 points		

**READINGS:**

Students will be expected to keep up on the weekly reading assignments for the course, to have read the material, and to formulate relevant questions about, and/or criticisms of, those readings.

**EXAMS:**

There will be 3 online examinations on material from the reading and class lectures, and there will be no make-up exams.

Students will also be requested to pay close attention to current news issues (in order to determine the relevance of philosophy to present-day concerns).

*The University of New Orleans partners with Proctor U, a live, online proctoring service that allows students to complete exams from any location using a computer, webcam, and reliable internet connection.*

**TERM PAPER:**

Each student will write a term paper on a philosophical topic of his or her choice. The term paper is expected to be a research paper, including references and citations, with a minimum word length of 2,000 words and complying with the term paper description provided in the course. The paper is due at the end of the semester.

**Grading:**

Each test will count for 25% of the overall score, and the term paper the remaining 25% – (3 exams X 25% per test = 75%) + (term paper x 25% = 25%) = 100%. An overall score of 360 = A; 320 = B; 280 = C; 240 = D; anything less = F. Failing all tests will necessarily result in an F. Since UNO does not use pluses and minuses, borderline cases will be determined by submission of weekly assignments.

**Withdrawal Policy – Undergraduate only**

Students are responsible for initiating action to resign from the University (withdraw from all courses) or from a course on or before dates indicated in the current Important dates calendar. Students who fail to resign by the published final date for such action will be retained on the class rolls even though they may be absent for the remainder of the semester and be graded as if they were in attendance. Failure to attend classes does not constitute a resignation. Check the dates on the Registrar's website, <http://www.registrar.uno.edu>. Consult The Bulletin for charges associated w/dropping & adding courses.

**Incomplete Policy – Undergraduate only**

The grade of I means *incomplete* and is given for work of passing quality but which, because of circumstances beyond the student's control, is not complete. The issuance of the grade of I is at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the course. For all graduate and undergraduate students, a grade of I becomes a grade of F if it is not converted before the deadline for adding courses for credit (as printed in the Important Dates Calendar) of the next regular semester including summer semester.

**Repeat Policy**

When a student is permitted to repeat a course for credit, the last grade earned shall be the one which determines course acceptability for degree credit. A student who has earned a C or better in a course may not repeat that course unless, (1) the catalog description indicates that the course may be repeated for credit, or (2) the student's Dean gives prior approval for documented extenuating circumstances.

**Graduate Policies**

Graduate policies often vary from undergraduate policies. To view the applicable policies for graduate students, see the Graduate Student Handbook: <http://www.uno.edu/grad/documents/GraduateStudentHandbook2014.pdf>

**Academic Dishonesty Policy**

<http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs-enrollment-management/documents/academic-dishonesty-policy-rev2014.pdf>

**Safety Awareness Facts and Education**

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: <http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs-enrollment-management/>

**UNO Counseling Services and UNO Cares**

UNO offers care and support for students in any type of distress. Counseling Services assist students in addressing mental health concerns through assessment, short-term counseling, and career testing and counseling. Find out more at <http://www.uno.edu/counseling-services/>. First-year students often have unique concerns, and UNO Cares is designed to address those students succeed. Contact UNO Cares through <http://www.uno.edu/fye/uno-cares.aspx>.

**Emergency Procedures**

Sign up for emergency notifications via text and/or email at E2Campus Notification: <http://www.uno.edu/ehso/emergency-communications/index.aspx>. All emergency and safety procedures are explained at the Emergency Health and Safety Office: <http://www.uno.edu/ehso/>.

**Diversity at UNO**

As the most diverse public university in the state, UNO maintains a Diversity Affairs division to support the university's efforts towards creating an environment of healthy respect, tolerance, and appreciation for the people from all walks of life, and the expression of intellectual point of view and personal lifestyle. The Office of Diversity Affairs promotes these values through a wide range of programming and activities. <http://diversity.uno.edu/index.cfm>

**Learning and Support Services**

Help is within reach in the form of learning support services, including tutoring in writing and math and other supplemental instruction. Visit the Learning Resource Center, LA 334 – or: <http://www.uno.edu/lrc/>.

**Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity**

UNO is an equal opportunity employer. The Human Resource Management department has more information on UNO's compliance with federal and state regulations regarding EEOC in its Policies and Resources website: <http://www.uno.edu/human-resource-management/policies.aspx>

## **PHIL 2201 – Timeline**

(Subject to Revision)

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic/Reading</b>
1	Lecture One: Introduction/Syllabus Read Syllabus & Timeline
2	Lecture Two: The Aim of Philosophy Submit Questions & Sample Paper Topics
3	Lecture Three: The Examined Life Read Chapter 1 (Vaughn)
4	Lecture Four: The Art of Argumentation Read Chapters 2 & 3 (Vaughn)
5	Lecture Five: Developing Virtues Read Chapter 7 (Vaughn) & 17 (Shafer-Landau)
First Exam – Chapters 1,2,3,7 (Vaughn) & 17 (Shafer-Landau) – 9/19	
6	Lecture Six: Epicurean Egoism Read Chapters 8 & 9 (Shafer-Landau)
7	Lecture Seven: Social Contracts Read Chapters 13 & 14 (Shafer-Landau)
8	Lecture Eight: According to Kant, It's Imperative Read Chapters 4 & 6 (Vaughn)
9	Lecture Nine: The Consequences of Utilitarianism Read Chapter 5 (Vaughn)
Second Exam – Ch.s 4-6 (Vaughn); 8 & 9, 13 ,14 (Shafer-Landau) – 10/17	

10                      Lecture Ten: The Ethics of Abortion  
Read Chapter 8 (Vaughn)

11                      Lecture Eleven: Altering & Copying Genes  
Read Chapter 9 (Vaughn)

12                      Lecture Twelve: Ending A Life  
Read Chapters 10 & 11 (Vaughn)

13                      Lecture Thirteen: S.E.X.  
Read Chapters 12 & 13 (Vaughn)

Third Exam – Chapters 8 – 13 (Vaughn) – 11/14

14                      Lecture Fourteen: The Environment & Other Animals  
Read Chapters 14 & 15 (Vaughn)

15                      Lecture Fifteen: Politics & Religion  
Read Chapter 16 (Vaughn) & 15 & 16 (Shafer-Landau)

16                      Lecture Sixteen: Global Justice  
Read Chapter 17 (Vaughn) & 18 (Shafer-Landau)

Final Exam – Chapters 14 – 17 (Vaughn) & 15, 16, 18 (Shafer-Landau) – 12/5