

Global Perspectives in Ethics

GPS 310

Fall 2020 Syllabus Overview

Course goals

I Believe That Ethics Is All About ...

Figuring out how to decide what is right (just) and wrong (unjust) ... and then acting upon what you have decided to live happily ever after as an individual and citizen of our planet.



What do you think, value, or believe? Why? How can you express what you think, value and believe? How does this compare to societal norms or standards?



What thinkers (past and present) or patterns of thinking help us figure out right and wrong?



How do religious values and ideas (e.g., God, love, re-incarnation...) help people figure out right and wrong?



How well do we balance social well being (people), economic well being (prosperity), and ecological well being (place)?



How do political, social and economic structures contribute to inequity and injustice.



Do you practice good decision making? What does this look like? How do we get better at this?



How can you engage with views, values, and beliefs that are different from your own?



How can you respond to local and global ethical challenges facing people today?

Our Class Community

- Ethics is not just about memorizing abstract theories. It is equally a matter to engaging each other about what is important and why – and seeking to better communicate what you think and why.
- If we cannot learn to live and love faithfully and fruitfully as a class of critical thinkers, then how can the global community – we are creating a microcosm of what we want for our planet.



Hands on ethics ... Food justice at work!

Our Class Community

- Our classroom is a community oriented to justice FOR ALL and it is essential that everyone feels welcome and safe. This means every voice is valued and everyone treated with dignity and respect
- We may discuss topics that are personally significant and sensitive, please know you can 'tap out' if you need to. But be ready to 'rumble' with vulnerability (thank you Brené Brown)
- Any inappropriate or disrespectful activities, posts or comments will be dealt with.

Brené Brown



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Course Overview

Module	Topic/Reading
MOD 1: Justice & Patterns of Thinking	Review Syllabus
Michael Sandel	Utilitarianism, Libertarianism,
• Critical Engagement Papers	Immanuel Kant, John Rawls
• Quizzes	Old School with Aristotle, Dilemmas of Loyalty
• Free Range Discussions	First Test
MOD 2: Happiness. Christianity and Ethics	What is Happiness? What is morality?
Paul Wadell	Friendship and Community
• Application Papers	Virtue & Vices, Finding a Good Story
• Quizzes	Personhood and Work
• Free Range Discussions	Freedom, Conscience & Prudence
	Love and Justice
	Second Test
MOD 3: Religious Traditions and Justice	World Religion Ethics
Mari Heidt	Buddhism, Judaism,
• Podcast	Hinduism, Daoism,
	Chinese Moral Traditions
	W'Interfaith Matters Podcasts
MOD 4: Henrietta Lacks	Book Club
Rebeca Skloot	Understanding ethical perspectives and global issues
• Google Docs	Appreciation of global ethical issues
Exam Period: Dec 8-15	Final Test/Exam

Course Texts and Aids To Help You Succeed

- Canvas: Mandatory Use for assignments, course materials, Study guides, quizzes, etc...
- Required Texts (numbered in order of use)
- Other Materials Supplied in Class (Wired Magazines; Children's Books, Articles)
- Book Group (Henrietta Lacks) Shared Google Documents



Course Evaluations

Assessment	Grade Value	Description
Attendance, Meaningful Participation, Teamwork	10%	Attend Class, Be prepared, Listen to understand, Speak to Engage Others, Engage in Activities and Discussions, Complete and Support Groupwork
Quizzes (8-10)	6%	On Canvas – once a week or for mastery of topics
Engagement Papers (2)	7%	What were the main or important ‘take-aways’ from the reading? Why? What do you think about what he/she said? Why? Ask a question you want to see on the test
Application Papers (2)	7%	What were the main or important ‘take-aways’ from the reading? Why? Apply what you have learned from the reading to ‘real’ life – e.g., event, blog, music lyrics, policies, reflections, ...
W’Interfaith Matters Podcast (1)	15%	As a team, construct a podcast for W’Interfaith Matters on a) one world religion, b) an ethical issue that arises in the world that this faith tradition contributed to and promotes social justice.
Book Club Google Doc (1 Shared Document)	5%	For the Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks
Section Tests (2)	15% (each)	Two section tests on materials learned in the course
Final Test/Exam (1)	20%	Test Taken During Final Exam period – includes group children’s text

How to Succeed

Are you struggling with writing papers?

- Look at videos and examples on Canvas
- Look at rubric attached to assignment or in typed syllabus on Canvas
- Reach out to Writing Center in the ARC for help (contact on Canvas Home Page)
- Come to office hours to get help

Are you struggling with concepts or ideas in the class?

- Re-read the chapters and take detailed notes
- Interact in class – it helps you understand challenging concepts
- Review powerpoints and videos/podcasts
- Visit ARC for peer tutoring
- Come to office hours to get help

How to Succeed

Are you struggling with group work or creative assignments?

- Communicate clearly with group members about expectations
- Write down deadline in your calendar – Don't fall behind
- Take time to be creative ...do not procrastinate or cram. Ask other people
- Speak to C. Wright about more successful interventions

Are you struggling with tests?

- Study smarter: Take notes, read, relate materials to your own life, put definitions in your own words, test yourself, ask questions, and review your materials frequently.
- Interact in class sessions! We often discuss tests
- Seek out a tutor at ARC
- Ask questions! (email, hangouts, Skype, discussion board on Canvas)

Other helpful services



Don't forget to check out our Canvas Homepage for more!



Library: <https://www.wingate.edu/academics/library>



Academic Resource Center (ARC) -- Second Floor of the Library
<https://www.wingate.edu/mygate/students/academic-resource-center>



Disability Support Services:
<https://www.wingate.edu/mygate/students/disability-support-services>

Disability Support Services
Office Phone: 704-233-8271
Email: access@wingate.edu



Counseling Services :
<https://www.wingate.edu/mygate/students/counseling-services>

Holbrook Building (Across from Dining Hall)

Phone: 704-233-8979

Email: counseling@wingate.edu



Full list with contact info on Canvas (Introduction Module)

What I believe...

- I believe that every single student in this class can be successful in appreciating ethical issues at all levels, and engaging in ethical reasoning. I believe in challenging students with rigorous materials because I know that you will rise to the challenge!
- My goal is to support all of you in your learning journey. If you need any support that you need or a different perspective or technique that can make you more successful, please reach out.

I am here for you!



Yes... I want you to chat with me ...
in person or online



What we can chat about ...

- All course content or questions
- Personal struggles or concerns weighing heavily on you. These may or may not interfere with class performance
- Title IX concerns (**NOTE: I'm a mandatory reporter)
- Your personal perspectives on course topics or things you are interested in!
- Ideas you have to make the world or campus a better place for everyone

