



# TEXARKANA COLLEGE

## Introduction to Ethics

(Phil 2306.01 & 2306.02)

Tuesday & Thursday (R) 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Thursdays (R) 6 – 9:00p.m.

Spring 2015

### **Instructor Information:**

**Name:** Dr. Richard J. Hornok

**Office:** Available to meet with students after class in the classroom.

**E-mail:** [richard.hornok@texarkanacollege.edu](mailto:richard.hornok@texarkanacollege.edu)

### **Textbook Information:**

*A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Ethical Toolbox – 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.* Anthony Weston, Oxford University Press, 2013.  
ISBN #978-0-19-975881-4

### **Objectives for the Course:**

The systematic evaluation of classical and/or contemporary ethical theories concerning the good life, human conduct in society, morals, and standards of value.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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

### **Student Requirements for Completion of the Course and Due Dates:**

**Reading:** The Student is required to read the textbook. Occasional “pop” quizzes will be given to assess the student’s compliance with this requirement.

**Examinations:** Four exams will be given. The exams are evenly divided throughout the semester. Exams will cover material from the text and lecture. It is your responsibility to be prepared for each exam. The final exam will be at the time as stated by Texarkana College. Exams may include both objective questions and essays. These are unit tests and are not cumulative.

**Class Presentation:** You will present a 5 minute presentation before your peers on an ethical topic/debate of your personal choice. The assignment should reflect college level work in all areas (research, presentation, content, examples, etc...). At least six sources are to be referenced. The title for your presentation must be the **“The Ethical Impact of \_\_\_\_\_ on Life.”** A topic may be used only once in this class. For example, only one presentation will be

accepted concerning the pro-life view of abortion and only one presentation will be accepted concerning the pro-choice view of abortion. No exceptions! It would be advisable for each student to develop 2 – 3 back up choices for a presentation topic. The presentation topic is due at the beginning of class on the day indicated on the syllabus. *The following topics have been used in the past as presentation topics: standardized testing, personality, religion curiosity based science, Alzheimer's, corporal punishment, prescription drugs, gay marriage, stem cell research, cyber bullying, tattoos, cosmetic surgery, childhood obstacles, music, culture, video games, abortion, adoption, depression, cell phones, social networking, micro expression, assisted suicide, sex, modern-day segregation, artificial intelligence, hunting, entertainment. This is a suggestive list only. Students should not feel obligated to select only from the previous listing. Students should consider topics of personal interests or fascination.*

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit assignments will not be given.

### **Student Assessment**

You may work toward a total of 500 points for the semester. Letter grades will be assigned using the letter-grade scale found in this syllabus. You must earn the full percentage for each grade. Objective factors will count as follows.

Exam 1	100 pts
Exam 2	100 pts
Exam 3	100 pts
Final Exam	100 pts
Class Presentation	100 pts

### **Grading Scale**

A	92 – 100
B	83 – 91
C	74 – 82
D	65 – 73
F	64 or below

### **Make-up Policy:**

1. All work is due at the beginning of class on the day stated, whether you are present or not. The instructor will not remind you of work you missed.
2. Work completed or turned in after the deadline set out in the course syllabus will incur the following point deductions:
  - a. Examinations: 15 – point deduction.
  - b. Class presentation: 30 – point deduction
3. No work will be accepted after the final examination.

## Class Schedule (Tuesday/Thursday)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>
January 20	Syllabus
January 22	World Views
January 27	Ethics As A Learning Experience
January 29	Ethics-Avoidance Disorders
February 3	Ethics and Religion
February 5	Review
February 10	Exam 1
February 12	Taking Values Seriously
February 17	The Ethics of the Person & Presentation Topic Due
February 19	The Ethics of Happiness
February 24	The Ethics of Virtue
February 26	No Class
March 3	The Ethics of Relationship
March 5	Exam 2
March 17	Critical Thinking & Judging Like Cases Alike & Presentation Proposal Due
March 19	Dialogue
March 24	When Values Clash & Creative Problem-Solving
March 26	Reframing Problems
March 31	Response-Ability & Making a Difference
April 2	The Future of Ethics
April 7	Exam 3
April 9	No Class
April 14	Various Topics
April 16	Various Topics
April 21	Presentations
April 23	Presentations
April 28	Presentations
April 30	Presentations
May ??	Final Exam

## Class Schedule (Thursday evening)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>
January 22	Syllabus World Views
January 29	Ethics As A Learning Experience Ethics-Avoidance Disorders
February 5	Ethics and Religion Taking Values Seriously
Exam 1 in Testing Center	
February 12	The Ethics of the Person The Ethics of Happiness
February 19	The Ethics of Virtue The Ethics of Relationship
Exam 2 in Testing Center	
February 26	NO Class
March 5	Critical Thinking Judging Like Cases Alike Dialogue
SPRING BREAK – MARCH 12	
March 19	When Values Clash Creative Problem - Solving Reframing Problems
March 26	Response-ability Making A Difference The Future of Ethics
Exam 3 in Testing Center	
April 2	Various Topics
April 9	NO CLASS
April 16	Various Topics
April 23	Presentations
April 30	Presentations
May 7	Final Exam

**Class Policies:** Cell phones and beepers must be turned off and not visible in the class unless an emergency situation exists. This situation must be discussed with the instructor prior to class. If a student is caught text-messaging in class, the student will be dropped from the class. If a student's cell phone rings in class, the student will receive a warning and will be dropped from class after the second offense.

Students should make arrangements with the instructor in advance if they need to leave class before dismissal. There will be a zero tolerance policy for any behavior that is disruptive of classroom learning. This includes ANY use of vulgar language or rude behavior toward instructor or any other student in the class.

**NOTE:** The above guidelines are subject to amendment by the instructor at any point during the semester.

**Academic Integrity Statement:**

Scholastic dishonesty, involving but not limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion, or falsification of records will make the student liable for disciplinary action after being investigated by the Dean of Students. Proven violations of this nature will result in the student being dropped from the class with an "F".

This policy applies campus wide, including TC Testing Center, as well as off-campus classroom or lab sites, including dual credit campuses. This information can be found in the Student Handbook at <https://texarkanacollege.edu>.

**Disability Act Statement:**

Federal law prohibits us from making pre-admission inquiry about disabilities. If you require special services because of a disability, you should notify your professor and the Counseling Center. This voluntary self-identification allows Texarkana College to prepare appropriate support services to facilitate your learning. This information will be kept in strict confidence.

**ABSENTEE POLICY**

Texarkana College's absentee policy allows instructors to withdraw a student from a course due to excessive absences. If a student leaves and returns during class or leaves the class before the class is over, he/she **may** be considered absent. Three tardies constitute one absence. It is the student's responsibility to check the syllabus for each instructor's tardy policy.

In some workforce/vocational areas, such as nursing and cosmetology, certification requirements necessitate an absentee policy that is more stringent than the institutional policy. In these instances, the matter of certification takes precedence over local policies, since certification policies are established by the State of Texas.

Faculty members **are not** obligated to provide opportunities for students to make-up missed assignments and tests as a result of a student's absence from class. The institution is not required to take attendance with the exception of workforce/vocational areas, where certification requirements require taking attendance. However, experience demonstrates that regular attendance enhances academic success. As such, students are expected to attend each meeting of their registered courses.

A student should not stop attending a class without formally withdrawing from the course by the institutions published Last Day for Students to Drop. If a student stops attending class after the published Last Day for Students to Drop, the student **may** receive a grade of “F” in the class. The instructor will submit the last date of attendance for students receiving a grade of “F” or “W”.

Withdrawal from a course(s) **may** affect a student’s current or future financial aid eligibility. Students should consult the Financial Aid Office to learn both short and long term consequences of a withdrawal.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES**

A student’s absence due to school trips and/or school business will not be counted against a student’s allowable number of absences. Military duty and absences for Holy Days (FBD LEGAL) are covered in a separate section of the catalog and the student handbook. These are the only excused absences that are considered by Texarkana College. Responsibility for work missed for any absence is placed on the student. Instructors are required to allow students to make up work missed if the absence is due to military duty\* or religious holy days when students follow the correct notification procedures. Instructors are not required to allow students to make up work for absences due to other reasons. Make-up policies are listed in each individual instructor’s syllabus.

*\*Students interested in Health Occupations should check with the division chair prior to entering the program.*

**ONLINE/HYBRID COURSE ABSENCES**

Absence in an **online course** is defined as the lack of an active post or submission within the course including discussion board posts, written assignments, and tests. This standard will be used to determine all absentee issues, including but not limited to, 12<sup>th</sup> Day Census Reports, last date of attendance, and involuntary withdrawal from a course due to absences. All online students must complete an Enrollment Verification activity within the first week of class (activity depends upon the professor); otherwise the professor **may** drop the student for not having attended. Students must complete at least one activity in their online class per week. Each week in which a student does not complete an activity will be counted as an absence. If a student is taking a hybrid course, and it does not meet during the first week of class, the student must also complete an Enrollment Verification activity within the first week of class; otherwise the student **may** be dropped for not having attended.

**MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE ABSENCES**

After official registration, the following number of unexcused absences will be the maximum allowable before a student **may** be dropped from the class. Mandated program certification requirements detailed for certain programs regarding the maximum allowable unexcused absences takes precedence over the following information.

**Academic Classes**

A COURSE THAT MEETS FOR THE FULL 16 WEEK SEMESTER	
Class or Lab Meets:	An instructor <b>may</b> withdraw a student from a course if absences exceed:
Once a week (Night classes or Friday classes)	2
Twice a week (MW or TR classes)	4
Three times a week (MWF or TRF classes)	6

Four times a week (MTWR classes)	8  Three tardies count as one absence
<b>A COURSE THAT MEETS FOR 14 WEEKS OF THE SEMESTER</b>	
Class or Lab Meets:  Twice a week (MW or TR classes)	An instructor <b>may</b> withdraw a student from a course if absences exceed:  4  Three tardies count as one absence.
<b>A COURSE THAT MEETS FOR 8 WEEKS OF THE SEMESTER (Fast-Track)</b>	
Class or Lab Meets:  Four times a week (MTWR classes)	An instructor <b>may</b> withdraw a student from a course if absences exceed:  4  Three tardies count as one absence.
<b>A COURSE THAT MEETS FOR 5 WEEKS OF THE SEMESTER (Summer Sessions)</b>	
Class or Lab Meets:  3 times a week (MTW) (evening classes) 4 times a week (MTWR) (day classes)	An instructor <b>may</b> withdraw a student from a course if absences exceed:  2 2  Three tardies count as one absence.

**Workforce Classes (This does not include Health Occupations. See Health Occupations Handbook regarding absences for that program.)**

Day Classes	Evening Classes
Class meets:  5 days a week (MTWRF)  The instructor <b>may</b> withdraw a student from a course if absences exceed five (5) up until the published Last Day for Students to Drop. Absences that exceed this number after the drop day may result in the student receiving an "F" in the program for that semester.  Three tardies count as one absence.  You are considered tardy from the designated class start time through the first 15 minutes of class. After that you will be counted absent.	Class Meets:  4 evenings a week (MTWR)  The instructor <b>may</b> withdraw a student from a course if absences exceed five (5) up until the published Last Day for Students to Drop. Absences that exceed this number after the drop day may result in the student receiving an "F" in the program for that semester.  Three tardies count as one absence.  You are considered tardy from the designated class start time through the first 15 minutes of class. After that you will be counted absent.

**Financial Aid:**

**Attention!** Dropping this class may affect your funding in a negative way! You could owe money to the college and/or federal government. Please check with the Financial Aid office before making a decision.