Ethics
PHIL-103

Fall 2016  Sections 01, 55, 77, 88, 89   3 Credits  08/22/2016 to 12/15/2016  Modified 08/17/2016

Contact Information

Instructor: John Jensen

Email: john_jensen@nic.edu
Office: Bos 222
Phone: 769-5916

All correspondence should be via email within the course website (only use email address above if Blackboard is down).
Students are expected to know how to navigate the course website and use the tools within it. There is a Student Support button in the course menu within the course website that explains how to use course email, submit discussion posts, check the online gradebook, etc.

This course will examine several ethical theories about the goals of human life and the norms of moral behavior. We will address such theoretical questions and contemporary issues as:

- How should we live? What should guide our decision-making? What is “the good life?” Why be moral at all?
- What method(s) do we use to determine moral standards? Divine law? Maximizing pleasure? Striving to be virtuous human beings?
- Are there moral standards which are common to all humanity?
- Is religious belief necessary, or is it coherent to say atheists, too, can have moral codes?
- How would I apply these theories to contemporary ethical issues such as abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, pornography/censorship, and animal rights.

Meeting Times

HYB/IVC (NIC classroom + satellite classrooms; some content online)

Monday, Wednesday, 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM, MHS 113

Online items are due Tue./Thur./Fri./Sat.

Over the weekend, students should read instructor comments about their posts/replies. See schedule below for more details.

Description

This course is the investigation and discussion of personal, social, and professional moral issues and the principles and thinking skills used for their resolution. Emphasis is on the development and application of reasoning skills for decision making in the moral domain. This course provides awareness, sensitivity, insights, and skills essential to the success and moral integrity of the person in today's morally complex world. Lecture: 3 hours per week

Materials
Doing Ethics: Moral Reasoning and Contemporary Issues

Author: Lewis Vaughn
Publisher: Norton
Edition: 3rd
Availability: NIC Bookstore

If you purchase an older or newer edition, it can work; however, the page numbers won't match some of the assignment details.

Click here for the textbook website (http://www.wwnorton.com/college/phil/ethics3/).

"Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption" (NIC's 2016-2017 common read selection)

Author: Bryan Stevenson
Publisher: Spiegel & Grau
Availability: NIC Bookstore, Online

Reliable INT connection

As well as the following:

- ability to read PDF files
- Ability to watch lecture videos
- ability to submit Word or PDF documents to Bb drop boxes

Outcomes

- Recognize and define the primary terms of the moral philosophy vocabulary.
- Recognize and identify the major ethical theories, their sources and the cultural/social influences that shaped them.
- Understand the metaethical theories and problems of egoism and altruism, relativism and universalism/absolutism, and values/valuing.
- Understand teleological/consequentialist, deontological/non-consequentialist, and virtue-centered ethical principles and theories.
- Apply these principles and theories to the analysis, evaluation, and decision-making for contemporary individual and social moral issues.
- Demonstrate the ability to write an interesting, informative, and well-developed analytical and evaluative explanatory essay about themes, topics, issues, or problems in ethics.
- Articulate and argue for their own ethical position, demonstrating both a defense for their own position and an appreciation for opposing views.

Assessment

Criteria

It is your responsibility to check the online Grades section frequently to track your current grade. Initiate contact with me if you have any questions or concerns about your grades. If you decide not to finish the course, be sure to withdraw from the course by the deadline so you don't receive an F on your transcript.

Grade Equivalency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Equivalency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92 - 100%</td>
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<td>Grade</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>82 - 87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 81%</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>72 - 77%</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>62 - 67%</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60 - 61%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 - 59%</td>
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20 pts  Course Contract  20 pts each  
20 pts  Week 1 Syllabus Quiz  20 pts each  
20 pts  Week 1 Post, Reply  10 pts each  
420 pts 14 Quizzes  30 pts each  
420 pts  Weekly Discussions/Journals  30 pts each week  
100 pts 2 Papers  100 pts  
1000 Total Pts

*Course Policies*

**Assignment Guidelines**

Detailed guidelines for weekly discussion posts and the final paper can be found in the Weekly Lessons folders.

**Attendance**

You must complete all Week 1 items (before the end of Wk 1) to avoid being dropped for non-attendance. If you miss a classroom session or the deadline for an online quiz or discussion, that is considered an absence. Students are allowed 4 total absences. If you miss more than 4 (for any reason), you cannot pass this course.

**Extra Credit**

Occasional extra credit opportunities will be offered to help you make up pts for missed assignments. You may submit a maximum of two 15-point extra credit assignments. See home page for details.
Quality Control / Academic Honesty

Do we really need to talk about this in an ethics course? You are responsible for being familiar with the NIC Student Code of Conduct. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will be reported to the V.P. of Student Affairs and dismissed from the course with an F.

Language/Mechanics Expectations:

- **You should carefully proofread all submissions.** Any Post or Reply with more than 3 problems (spelling, grammar, punctuation, run-on sentences, sentence fragments, etc.) will lose 5 pts right off the top. At the very minimum, you should write all assignments in a word processing program to help you catch obvious spelling and grammar errors; then paste your submission into the Post or Reply field. At the very-very minimum, avoid submitting impromptu Posts and Replies that read like text messages or "stream of consciousness" thinking (automatic 0).

- Discussing philosophy can be difficult enough when we are all in the same classroom and completely understand each other; since that’s not the case, it is even more critical in online courses that your writing is crystal clear. A misplaced comma, semicolon, etc. can change the entire meaning of something. If you aren’t confident about your language skills, have someone read your assignments, posts, replies, and papers before submitting them; better yet, utilize the NIC Writing Lab.

Schedule

The basic weekly schedule is explained below. See the *Course Calendar* within the course website for more details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Week 1 Items</strong></td>
<td><strong>Monday: Start exploring website.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>08/24/2015</td>
<td>8:00 AM - 11:00 PM</td>
<td>By Tue/11pm:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Make sure you have regular access to a computer that can access the Internet and read PDF documents.</td>
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<td>- Read the <em>Welcome Letter</em>.</td>
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<td>- Read the Syllabus and print the Course Calendar.</td>
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<td>- Click the <em>Student Support</em> link to learn how to navigate the course website.</td>
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<td>By Wed/11pm:</td>
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<td>- Submit <em>Course Contract</em> to online Drop Box.</td>
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<td>- Submit your <em>Introduce Yourself post</em>.</td>
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<td>- Take <em>Syllabus Quiz</em>.</td>
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<td>By Fri/11pm:</td>
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<td>- Submit your <em>Introduce Yourself reply</em>.</td>
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<td>- Submit your <em>photo</em> to drop box.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday Classroom Meetings</th>
<th>Instructor Lectures</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08/22/2016 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM MHS 113</td>
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<td>Each week we'll have an online quiz over the reading for that week; then we use the rest of the week to become more familiar with the concepts via Discussion. These quizzes are open-book, open-notes; you can take them any time before Tuesday, 11pm. You have 1 hour to complete the quiz; therefore, you may want to highlight text, take some notes, etc. (Scored 0-30 pts)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Tuesday Quizzes</th>
<th>Weekly Reading Quizzes</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/19/2016 9:00 AM - 11:00 PM Weekly Lessons Folders</td>
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<tr>
<td>When</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Classroom Meetings</strong></td>
<td>8:00AM - 9:00AM MHS 113</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Instructor Lectures</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Discussion Posts</strong></td>
<td>01/21/2016 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM Weekly Lessons Folders</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter Discussion</td>
<td>Check the weekly folder for instructions and follow them closely. Starting in Wk 2, the BLUE GROUP (students with last names A-L) will submit a post, and the GREEN GROUP (last names M-Z) will submit a reply. Wk 3 will be the converse, and so on. Be sure to submit your post by 11pm. This is your first opportunity to demonstrate in your own words that you have gained a basic working knowledge of the week’s material. Don’t forget to use the chapter terminology to demonstrate this. (Scored 0-20 pts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Journal Entry</strong></td>
<td>Weekly Folders</td>
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<td></td>
<td>“Just Mercy” weekly chapter(s)</td>
<td>Each week, every student will post a brief response to prompts covering a chapter in <em>Just Mercy</em>. The entries can only be read by the instructor, no classmates, so you can be even more candid than the public discussion if you like. The questions are centered on the <em>Just Mercy</em> book, but you should still try to weave in course terminology when possible. These are due Fridays, 11pm. (Scored 0-10 pts)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Discussion Replies</strong></td>
<td>01/23/2016 9:00 AM - 11:00 PM Weekly Lessons Folders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter Discussion</td>
<td>Starting in Wk 2, the GREEN GROUP (last names M-Z) will submit a reply and the BLUE GROUP (students with last names A-L) will submit a post. Wk 3 will be the converse, and so on. Basically, reply to one (and only one) other student’s Post any time after Thur. 11pm. The objective is to demonstrate that you understand the material by critiquing another student’s application of the material. These aren’t due until 11pm Sat., but you may want to do them Fri. so you have more Posts from which to choose. (Scored 0-20 pts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Weekend</strong></td>
<td><strong>Instructor Comments</strong></td>
<td>01/24/2016 9:00 AM - 11:00 PM Weekly Lessons Folders</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Chapter Discussion</td>
<td>I will grade the Discussions Fri-Sun, so check your My Grades to see my feedback about your posts and replies. This is where I give feedback and correct/clarify conceptual misunderstandings that I find in the Discussion. You are expected to read these so you can improve your discussion submissions from week to week.</td>
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*Note: The text is organized to fit the page dimensions.*
Week 1: Introductory exercises, information

Week 2: Ch 1 - Ethics & the Examined Life; Ch 2 - Subjectivism, Relativism, Emotivism; Just Mercy Ch 1,2
Week 3: Ch 3 - Evaluating Moral Arguments; Ch 4 - The Power of Moral Theories; Just Mercy Ch 3,4
Week 4: Ch 5 - Consequentialist Theories; Just Mercy Ch 5
Week 5: Ch 6 - Nonconsequentialist Theories; Just Mercy Ch 6
Week 6: Ch 7 - Virtue Ethics; Just Mercy Ch 7
Week 7: Ch 8 - Abortion; Just Mercy Ch 8
Week 8: Paper #1 due
Week 9: Ch 9 - Genetics & Cloning; Just Mercy Ch 9
Week 10: Ch 10 - Euthanasia; Just Mercy Ch 10
Week 11: Ch 11 - Capital Punishment; Just Mercy Ch 11
Week 12: Ch 12,13 - Sexual Morality & Same-Sex Marriage; Just Mercy Ch 12,13
Week 13: Ch 14, 15 - The Environment & Animal Rights; Just Mercy Ch 14,15
Week 14: Thanksgiving Break (no assignments in this course)
Week 15: Ch 16 - Political Violence; Just Mercy Ch 16
Week 16: Ch 17 - Global Economic Justice; Just Mercy Final Thoughts
Week 17: Paper #2 due

Additional Items

Division Policies

NIC English and Humanities Division

Absences
The English and Humanities Division has agreed upon a recommendation that students not miss more than the equivalent of two weeks in a single course, which means six absences in a three-day-per-week class, four absences in two-day-per-week class, two absences in a one-evening-per-week class, or two weeks of online participation.

Plagiarism Policy
NIC’s English Department believes strongly in the ability of its students to:
1. write works in which they use their own ideas and words
2. correctly borrow the words and ideas of others
The department’s definition of plagiarism comes from the Council of Writing Programs Administrators’: In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (no common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source.

Behaviors considered plagiarism would include:
1. Using someone else’s exact words without using direct quotes.
2. Paraphrasing or summarizing someone’s words or ideas without giving credit to the source’s author.
3. Submitting another’s work as the student’s own. This includes a purchased paper, a borrowed paper, or portions of another person’s work.
Turnitin: NIC subscribes to a plagiarism-prevention service, called Turnitin, which is integrated with our Blackboard course software. When you turn in your assignments to this site, whether during the drafting process or on a final due date, the software compares your work to many resources on the world wide web, coming up with an “authenticity” report. You will receive more information on this process in class. To avoid plagiarism, cite sources carefully.

Behavior not considered plagiarism but of concern is sloppy documentation of words and ideas borrowed from another source and/or submitting an old paper as new work without the instructor's permission.

In addition to helping students with their current individual writing needs, the Writing Center upholds a student-centered environment that stresses the relationship between strong written and oral communication skills and success both in and beyond college. This environment not only helps students become more critical readers and more competent writers, but also promotes their success across the curriculum and encourages life-long learning.

Click on the following link for additional information - [http://www.nic.edu/websites/index.asp?dpt=105](http://www.nic.edu/websites/index.asp?dpt=105)

The Writing Center: The Writing Center is located in Lee Hall Annex (behind Lee/Kildow Hall). It is open to all students across campus for help with their writing. They are open from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Fridays.

### Institutional Policies

**Student Code of Conduct**

The Student Code of Conduct applies to any student enrolled at North Idaho College. This includes, but is not limited to, face-to-face classes and Internet classes.

NIC shall maintain a Student Code of Conduct that specifically addresses prohibited behavior and assures due process for alleged violations. The Code of Conduct shall make clear possible sanctions for such actions. [Policy Manual](http://www.nic.edu/websites/index.asp?dpt=105) (See 5.06)

**Disability Support Services (DSS)**

The North Idaho College [Disability Support Services (DSS)](http://www.nic.edu/websites/index.asp?dpt=105) office assists students with disabilities. DSS provides academic accommodations, access, assistance, and services at NIC and at the North Idaho Consortium of Higher Education campuses.

DSS services are designed to support students throughout their academic career. Please contact DSS to learn more about eligibility, services and assistive technology, accommodations, and your rights and responsibilities.

Students requesting accommodations must contact DSS at the beginning of each semester.

**Withdrawal**

Please check the [NIC Calendar](http://www.nic.edu/websites/index.asp?dpt=105) for the last day students can withdraw from full-length courses.

Instructor-Initiated Withdrawal: An instructor has the right to withdraw a student for academic reasons. For more information, see the [Instructor-Initiated Withdrawal Procedure](http://www.nic.edu/websites/index.asp?dpt=105).

**Financial Aid Satisfactory Progress (SAP):** Federal Regulations require North Idaho College to establish Satisfactory Academic Progress standards (SAP) for all financial aid recipients. The purpose of SAP standards are meant to ensure that students and academic institutions are held accountable to the taxpayer-funded federal student aid programs while students complete their academic goals in a timely manner. This process monitors student performance in all terms of enrollment, including terms in which the student did not receive financial aid. For more information, see the [Financial Aid Satisfactory Progress](http://www.nic.edu/websites/index.asp?dpt=105) website.

For more information on withdrawals, see the [NIC Student Accounts](http://www.nic.edu/websites/index.asp?dpt=105) website.

**Title IX**

North Idaho College seeks to provide an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have been the victim of sexual harassment/misconduct/assault we encourage you to report this. If you report this to any college employee, (except for a licensed counselor or health care professional) she or he must notify our college's Title IX coordinator about the basic facts of the incident (you may choose whether you or anyone involved is identified by name). For more information about your options at NIC, please go to: [www.nic.edu/titleIX](http://www.nic.edu/titleIX) or call (208) 676-7156
INSTITUTIONAL STATEMENT

Removal From Class For Non-Attendance: Attendance is based on your participation in this class. Failure to attend will result in your being removed from this class and may result in your financial aid award being reduced. You are responsible for confirming the accuracy of your attendance record.