

Introduction to Ethics

PHI-123S-801US

Summer 2026

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Course Description

This course will introduce students to ethical study and theory, a branch of philosophical study. The course is designed to engage students in critical thinking and discourse concerning theories on how to live and act well. Students will investigate classical theories of morality and contemporary moral debates.

Required Text

MacKinnon, Barbara. *Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues*. 10th ed. Boston: Wadsworth, 2023

Course Objectives

1. History of Ethical Theory

- Students will be able to identify and demonstrate knowledge of several ethical theories.
- Students will be able to identify several key figures in ethical theory.
- Students will be able to discuss and analyze historical components of ethical theory.

Application of theories to issues

- Students will demonstrate awareness and understanding of complex ethical issues.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to examine ethical questions from different perspectives.
- Students will reflect on their own value systems into critical thinking exercises.

Construction of defensible rational arguments

- Students will defend an ethical position utilizing primary and secondary source material.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to represent complex ethical issues fairly, objectively, and critically in writing.
- Students will demonstrate exposure to and understanding of philosophical arguments addressing traditional and contemporary moral issues.

Course Requirements

- Students are expected to participate in class having read the assigned readings

- Students are expected to discuss the assigned readings.
- Students will complete five short papers demonstrating comprehension and reflection.
- Students will take five quizzes on course material.
- Students will complete two argumentative papers.
- Students are expected to turn all assignments in on time.

Assignment Calendar

Date:	Reading:	Assignment Due:
June 8 - 14	Chapter 1	<i>Introduce Yourself on Discussion Board</i> Reflection Essay #1
June 15 - 21	Chapter 2	Reflection Essay #2 Discussion #1 Quiz #1
June 21 - 28	Chapter 3	Reflection Essay #3 Quiz #2 Discussion #2
June 29 - July 5	Chapter 4	Midterm Essay
July 6 - 12	Chapter 5	Reflection Essay #4 Quiz #3 Discussion #3
July 13 - 19	Chapter 6	Reflection Essay #2 Quiz #4 Discussion #4
July 20 - 26	A Brief Guide to Writing the Philosophy Paper	Reflection Essay #5 Quiz #5 Discussion #5
July 27 - August 1	A Brief Guide to Writing the Philosophy Paper	Final Essay (Due by July 29)

Course Assignments:

The five discussion board activities will be broken up into two parts:

1. Your ***initial post*** is due on **Wednesdays** by 11:59 pm
2. Your two ***response posts*** are due on **Sundays** by 11:59 pm

All other assignments in this class are due by Sunday at 11:59

Late work will not be accepted

(Unless you have a note from a doctor, a funeral program, etc.)

Detailed instructions will be provided for each assignment at the time you access them. That said, the following notes should provide you with a general overview of what you can expect moving forward:

- The 5 reflection essays will be 15 sentences *minimum* (based on the reading from the textbook).
- The 5 Quizzes will be true/false or multiple-choice questions (around 10 questions in length), and will be based on the weekly reading.
- The 5 discussions will focus on philosophical questions raised from a variety of sources.
- The Midterm is a 4 page (*minimum*) argumentative essay.
- The Final Essay is a 5 page (*minimum*) argumentative essay.

Assignment(s):	Percent of Overall Grade:
5 Reflection Essays	15%
5 Discussions	20%
5 Quizzes	15%
1 Midterm Essay	25%
1 Final Essay	25%

Grading Criteria

Points	Grade
90 – 100%	A
80 – 89.9 %	B
70 – 79.9%	C
60 – 69.9%	D
Below 60%	F

Submission Requirements: It is expected that all written assignments will be properly formatted. This means: a Word document with margins, double spacing, 12 – point font, and proper citation (if necessary). These assignments are graded based not only on familiarity with the text, but also on the successful development of an idea (if you are making a claim), or a detailed examination (if you are asking a question).

What do I need to do to pass this class? Success in Ethics requires focus, discipline, patience & practice. Students who do well in this course do all of the required reading, and ask for help when they get stuck.

Keep up with the work!

Edison Community College Policies

It is the students' responsibility to be informed of Edison's policies and procedures. Students with diagnosed learning challenges are encouraged to notify the instructor in order to accommodate an appropriate means of meeting class requirements.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Edison Community College has an IT Helpdesk that is available Monday through Thursday. The hours of operation are:

Mon - Thurs 8:00 - 8:00

Friday 8:00 - 4:00

Saturday 10:00 - 2:00

Sunday

(Closed)

You can reach the Helpdesk by calling 778-8600 and ask for extension 711 or email

Helpdesk@edisonohio.edu.

For a problem with Blackboard, there is a form you can use on the Edison website (<http://www.edisonohio.edu/blackboard/BlackboardHelpForm.htm>). Please include all details regarding what happened. In addition, please provide your operating system, browser and version you were using, and type of Internet connection.

Plagiarism

PLAGIARISM IS CHEATING AND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Plagiarism is the stealing of intellectual property. Plagiarism is the use or imitation of another person's work without proper acknowledgment. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional, but the penalties are the same.

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Penalties for plagiarism include, but are not limited to: a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, and expulsion.

Plagiarism can include (but is not limited to):

- Buying, stealing, or borrowing a paper (including material of the Web).
- Hiring someone to write your paper.
- Copying large sections of text from a source without proper citation.
- Using almost exact wording from a source when paraphrasing.
- Building upon someone else's ideas without citing.

Always give credit for ideas which are not your own:

Words or ideas presented in a book, newspaper, magazine, Web page, or any other medium.

Information you gain through interviewing or conversing with another person, face to face, over the phone, or in writing.

When you copy the exact words or a unique phrase.

When you paraphrase (put the same idea into your own words).

When you reprint any diagrams, illustrations, charts, pictures, or other visual materials.

(Source: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/>)

How Grades Will Be Determined on Written Assignments

In order to receive any given grade, the assignment must meet all criteria for that grade level

Elements of an "A" paper	Little to no typographical errors No grammatical errors Correct usage of MLA format, if applicable Clearly delineated intro, body, and conclusion Well-structured and supported argument Argument answers the question asked Argument demonstrates comprehension, critical thought, application, and self-reflection Paper meets length requirements
Elements of a "B" paper	Few to no typographical errors

	Few to no grammatical errors Mostly correct usage of MLA format Clearly delineated intro, body, and conclusion Few minor errors which would undermine argument Argument answers the question asked Argument demonstrates comprehension Paper meets length requirements
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Elements of a "C" paper	Few to moderate typographical errors Few grammatical errors Incorrect usage of MLA format Unclear organizational structure Several errors which affect the argument Argument does not answer the question asked Argument does not demonstrate comprehension Paper does not meet length requirements
Elements of a "D" paper	Many to moderate typographical errors Many to moderate grammatical errors Incorrect usage of MLA format Poor organizational structure Poorly constructed argument with little to no evidence or support Argument does not answer the question asked Argument does not demonstrate comprehension Paper does not meet length requirements
Elements of an "F" paper	Many typographical errors Many grammatical errors Incorrect usage of MLA format Poor organizational structure Poorly constructed argument Argument does not answer the question asked Argument does not demonstrate comprehension Paper does not meet length requirements

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MISCONCEPTIONS

- Distance-learning courses are easy.

Distance-learning courses are different from traditional courses, but not easier. It is the policy of ECC that distance-learning courses "will have the same quality and academic integrity as traditional on-campus courses conducted in the classroom." In fact, distance-learning courses require a special discipline and persistence and perhaps greater self-reliance than traditional classroom courses. The work load is no less, and may be more, since you have to make up for the three hours you will not spend in direct instruction in a classroom. The time required varies depending on the type of assignments you have in a given week and—this is important!—varies with your reading speed and comprehension and your writing and typing skills. Start with a schedule that allows nine hours a week for this course. You can adjust up or down as you gain familiarity with the requirements of the course.

- Distance-learning courses are like independent study, and I'll be working alone.

In this class you are part of a group, each member of which is pursuing the objectives of the course and who will interact with the instructor and with each other. You will participate in discussions with your classmates via a discussion board, and, unlike in many traditional classes, you cannot hide in the back of the room. Participation in discussions is required.

- In distance-learning courses the work is self-paced.

Although you will not meet in a classroom twice a week, this course is no more self-paced than a traditional class. You have assignments to read and write; there are quizzes and exams to take: this work has to be completed within a specific time. You will participate in discussions with your classmates via a discussion board, and you will do so by specific deadlines. Many assignments will be posted for several weeks rather than just one. I understand how complicated lives can be, so I will try to work with you and give you more notice of what's going on to allow you to work up to 2 weeks ahead in case something is going on. Be forewarned though, no late work of any kind will be accepted in this class since you will be given more than enough time. Procrastination is not a good idea.

- The distance-learning course, the Internet, and e-mail are available twenty-four hours a day: my instructor must be available, too.

Your instructor is here to help you, but not twenty-four hours a day, every day. Your instructor has other responsibilities and has a life. See the section on communication for information about getting in touch with your instructor. Plan your work so that there is adequate time for communication when you need help. There is no distance-learning EMS.

IMPORTANT PRACTICES

Make this part of your routine.

- Review the Blackboard manuals on the tools. Don't wait until an assignment is due before you refresh your memory on how to use these tools. "Blackboard @ Edison" (see Bb STUDENT HELP) contains helpful FAQs and tutorials you may want to check before you ask for help. The Blackboard "User Manual" is available in the TOOLS section of the course.
- Check your Edison e-mail account frequently for communications about this course. Once a day, Monday through Friday, is not too often.
- Check the DISCUSSION BOARD frequently for your colleagues' contributions. Read them thoughtfully. Reply to all who ask you a question about your posts. Develop a discussion on themes you find important.
- Time management is crucial. Establish a regular schedule with sufficient time allocated to the study of history and adhere to it.
- "Once over" is inadequate for mastering the content and skills of history. Review frequently. Plan to spend nine hours a week to start and adjust up or down as needed. I have written a guidebook to helping you pass a history class, which is located under "Course Documents"

NETIQUETTE

In our virtual classroom, you will communicate with your classmates and instructor using e-mail and discussion board. Your online conduct is referred to as “netiquette.”

- Be courteous and respectful of your colleagues. You do not have to agree with everything they post: as a critical thinker, you will consider claims carefully and will be prepared to

challenge, correct, argue with those that you think are incorrect, incomplete, or inadequately supported. But disagree without being disagreeable. Always base your positions on evidence and logic and avoid personal attacks.

- Rude, abusive, or profane language will disqualify your submissions for that assignment and can have consequences for your continuing in the course.
- Respect the fact that the forum is a closed discussion; do not forward mail or forum posts to people outside the group without the author's permission.
- Think before you write. Unlike a traditional class where we can see and speak to each other, an online course does not allow us to use nonverbal cues (facial expressions, tone of voice, gestures). Remarks that might be humorous when spoken can easily be misconstrued when written. Choose your words with care to lessen the chance that you will be misunderstood or misinterpreted.
- Keep your questions and comments relevant to the topic of the discussion forum. Communication that does not address the topic of the forum and or that intended for an individual or small group of individuals should be e-mailed to those people directly.
- Do not write messages in all capital letters. This is considered SHOUTING.
- All discussions should be written in full sentences

-Student Support Services Syllabus Statement –

ACCOMMODATIONS /ACCESSIBILITY AND DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES POLICY

Edison State Community College will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. If you believe you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, contact the instructor privately with your self-identification letter. If you do not have a self-identification letter, contact Accessibility and Disability Support Services by emailing disabilities@edisonohio.edu or by calling 937.778.7850. Accessibility and Disability Support Services is located on the Piqua Campus in Room 160.

ADVISING SERVICES

Edison State's career pathway advisors are your partners in success. A career pathway advisor is the first advisor that you will meet with once you have made the decision to further your education. Together, you and your career pathway advisor will:

- Identify the right academic major to set you on your desired career path.
- Identify the courses you'll need to accomplish your academic goals.
- Help you develop a student plan tailored to your lifestyle and work schedule.

- Prepare you to navigate your first semester at Edison State.

You can find your career pathway advisor and faculty advisor information, including their email address, by logging into MyESCC and clicking on Student Planning. Go to Plan and Schedule and click on the Advising tab. You may also call 937-778-7850 to connect via phone call.

BOOKSTORE SERVICES

eCampus is Edison State's official bookstore and is located on the Edison State webpage, under "Resources," "Bookstore," or at <https://edisonohio.ecampus.com>. You can also access eCampus from the ESCC home page, under "Campus Services." Through eCampus, you can rent or buy books, access course materials, or purchase ESCC merchandise.

CAREER AND JOB SERVICES

Our Career and Job Services advisors are dedicated to helping students and alumni advance their professional development as they make career decisions, develop job search strategies, pursue experiential opportunities and secure employment. Career and Job Services also provides career assessments, career information, resume and cover letter help, job postings and resources, tips for interviewing and more. Visit <https://www.edisonohio.edu/Career-and-Job-Services/> for more information.

COMPUTERS

If you are working on campus, computers with internet access are available in the internet café. The Library and Tutoring Center has computers and printers available for your use.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICES

Health and Wellness Services are available on the Edison State Piqua campus. The program is dedicated to providing resources that promote healthy lifestyle choices for our students, faculty and staff and is managed by the Human Resources department.

LIBRARY SERVICES

The Edison State library is not only a comfortable place to study, we have an expansive collection of online resources available to help you with your research. Check out the library webpage here: <https://www.edisonohio.edu/Library/>. Libguides and short instructional videos are available to help you use these resources and can be found at: <https://libguides.edisonohio.edu/>. Please contact the library staff with any library questions you may have at library@edisonohio.edu, 937-778-7950, or stop in!

STUDENT WELLNESS CENTER SERVICES

Health and Wellness Services are available on the Edison State Piqua campus. Our Student Wellness Center provides resources to promote healthy physical lifestyle choices, as well as healthy mental health lifestyle choices, <https://www.edisonohio.edu/student-life/student-wellness-center>.

The Student Wellness Center can help you navigate obstacles that might cause issues or create anxiety during the school year. We have built a network of health professionals to support you and to create an environment open to discussion and nurturing to meet your needs continuously.

We have established partnerships with many local mental health providers. If you are struggling and need to speak with someone in person, please reach out to the Edison State Care Team, <https://www.edisonohio.edu/services-support/care-team#230548828-315143650> . If you are concerned about a student or colleague, please file a CARE Team form <https://www.edisonohio.edu/services-support/care-team> so that immediate assistance can be given.

STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER AND CHARGER STATION FOOD PANTRIES

Edison State Community College is proud to assist students needing help to obtain basic necessities. The Student Resource Center and Food Pantry is stocked with all kinds of grab-and-go snacks, meal supplies, toiletries, household needs, and community resources. Stop by and check out our Charger Stations, room next to the Cafeteria, Piqua, in the student lounge at Troy, in the Brooke-Gould Learning Resource Center at Eaton, and in Room 121 (for personal care items) and pantry items in the student lounge at Greenville. If you need additional assistance, please reach out at ResourceCenter@edisonohio.edu.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

For Blackboard Assignment issues, the Instructor should be the first point of contact

For Log-in or other technology issues:

There are several steps you can follow if you have issues logging in to Blackboard or Office.

During business hours:

- Password reset: Log onto office.com with your Edison email and follow the “forgot password” prompts.
- Reach out for help during regular business hours (9-5 Monday-Thursday, 9-4 Friday) o email to support@edisonohio.edu

o call 937-778-8600 and ask for IT Help Desk

After hours:

- Password reset: Log onto office.com with your Edison email and follow the “forgot password” prompts · Go to www.edisonohio.edu into the Resources tab and click "IT Help Desk" then click "Chat".
- Call 937-778-7957 and talk to the off-campus Blackboard company to get help

TESTING YOUR FAITH ACT POLICY

Edison State Community College is committed to providing an environment respectful of students' beliefs. Students are permitted to be absent for up to 3 days each semester based on their faith, religion, or spiritual belief system with no academic penalty. Students must complete the Testing Your Faith Act Accommodations Form,

https://www.edisonohio.edu/sites/default/files/2024-05/Testing_Your_Faith_Absence_Notification.pdf, and provide a copy to their individual faculty within 14 days from the start of the course. The entire policy can be found in the student handbook at

<https://www.edisonohio.edu/sites/default/files/2025-04/Student%20Handbook%20revisions%20April%202025.pdf>, page 19.

TITLE IX STATEMENT - Anti-Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying

It is the policy of the College to maintain a learning environment free from bullying, discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual violence. Title IX federal law protects students, employees and third parties with a relationship to the college.

All Edison State Community College employees are required to report all knowledge of incidents that violate the Title IX policy to the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator immediately. Student and employee confidential consultation is available through the Coordinator of Health and Wellness Services.

Title IX Policy and procedure language as well as contact information for the Coordinator of Health and Wellness, Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator can be found at www.edisonohio.edu/TitleIX/.

TUTORING SERVICES

All Edison State students are eligible to receive free tutoring and learning support services through our Tutoring Center. Available services include Edison State tutors, both online and in-person, covering a wide variety of courses including various levels of math and paper reviews, online tutoring through OhioLINK eTutoring, distraction-reduced study rooms, and the use of Tutoring Center resources including subject-specific and general study guides. For more information on tutoring services, visit the Tutoring Center in the Library, email us at tutoringcenter@edisonohio.edu, call 937-778-7959, or visit our webpage at <https://www.edisonohio.edu/tutoring-center/>

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

For additional help, please click the ASSIST tab on Blackboard or the Edison State Student Resources folder within your course.