Edison State Community College

Introduction to Ethics

PHI-123S-803FS
Fall 2026

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M.A. in Philosophy, University of Toledo (2006)

Course Description

This course introduces students to ethics, a branch of philosophical inquiry concerned with how we ought to live and act. Students will engage in critical thinking and discourse about classical ethical theories and contemporary moral debates.

Required Text

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

Course Objectives

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

1. Understand the History of Ethical Theory

- Identify and demonstrate knowledge of several major ethical theories.
- Identify key figures in the history of ethical thought.
- Discuss and analyze the historical development of ethical theory.

2. Apply Ethical Theories to Contemporary Issues

- Demonstrate awareness and understanding of complex ethical issues.
- Examine ethical questions from multiple perspectives.
- Critically reflect on their own values and assumptions.

3. Construct Defensible Rational Arguments

- Defend an ethical position using primary and secondary sources.
- Represent complex ethical issues fairly, objectively, and critically in writing.
- Demonstrate an understanding of philosophical arguments concerning traditional and contemporary moral issues.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to:

- Complete all assigned readings.
- Participate thoughtfully in course discussions.
- Complete five reflection essays demonstrating comprehension and reflection.
- Complete five quizzes covering course material.
- Complete a midterm argumentative essay and a final argumentative essay.
- Submit all assignments by their stated deadlines.

Assignment Calendar

Dates	Reading	Assignments Due
August 24 - 30	Chapter 1	Introduce yourself (Discussion Board)
August 31 - September 6	Chapter 2	Quiz 1
September 7 - 13	Chapter 3	Reflection Essay 1 Discussion 1
September 14 - 20	Chapter 4	Quiz 2
September 21 - 27	Chapter 5	Discussion 2
September 28 - October 4	Chapter 6	Reflection Essay 2
October 5 - 11	Chapter 7	Quiz 3
October 12 - 18	*A Brief Guide to Writing the Philosophy Paper*	**Midterm Essay**

October 19 - 25	Chapter 8	Discussion 3
October 26 - November 1	Chapter 9	Quiz 4 Reflection Essay 3
November 2 - 8	Chapter 10	Discussion 4
November 9 - 15	Chapter 11	Reflection Essay 4
November 16 - 22	Chapter 12	Discussion 5
November 23 - 29	*Thanksgiving Break*	-
November 30 - December 6	Chapter 13	Quiz 5 Reflection Essay 5
December 7 - 12	-	**Final Essay due December 9**

Course Assignments

Each discussion-board activity consists of two parts:

1. Your **initial post** is due Wednesday by 11:59 p.m.
2. Your two **response posts** are due Sunday by 11:59 p.m.

Unless otherwise stated, all other assignments are due Sunday by 11:59 p.m.

Late work will not be accepted unless the student provides appropriate documentation, such as a doctor's note or funeral program.

Detailed instructions will be provided with each assignment. The following provides a general overview:

- The five reflection essays must contain at least 15 substantive sentences and respond directly to the assigned reading.
- The five quizzes will contain approximately 10 true/false or multiple-choice questions based on the weekly readings.
- The five discussions will address philosophical questions raised by the assigned material.
- The midterm is an argumentative essay of at least four pages.
- The final is an argumentative essay of at least five pages.

Grade Distribution

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade
Five Reflection Essays	15%
Five Discussions	20%
Five Quizzes	15%
Midterm Essay	25%
Final Essay	25%
Total	**100%**

Grading Scale

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

Submission Requirements

All written assignments must be submitted as properly formatted Word documents. Papers should use one-inch margins, double spacing, 12-point font, and appropriate citations when required.

Assignments will be evaluated not only on familiarity with the course material but also on the successful development of an argument or the careful examination of a philosophical question.

What Do I Need to Do to Pass This Class?

Success in Ethics requires focus, discipline, patience, and practice. Students who perform well complete all required readings, submit assignments on time, participate thoughtfully, and ask for help when they encounter difficulty.

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.

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.

Grade	Criteria
A	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-refection; paper meets length requirements.

B 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.

C Few to moderate typographical errors; few grammatical errors; incorrect usage of MLA format; unclear organizational structure; several errors which afect the argument; argument does not answer the question asked; argument does not demonstrate comprehension; paper does not meet length requirements.

D 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.

F 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 diferent 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 specifc time. You will participate in discussions with your classmates via a discussion board, and you will do so by specifc 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 fnd important.

• Time management is crucial. Establish a regular schedule with sufcient 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.

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/services-support/registration-records, located in
“Forms ” 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/servicessupport/student-resources.

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%20Ap
ril%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.