

**PROFESSOR:** Timothy Hsiao

**PHONE NUMBER:** Email preferred

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**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment

**SEMESTER:** Spring 2017

**I. COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE, CATALOG DESCRIPTION, CREDITS:**

**PHI 2600 ETHICS (3 CREDITS)**

This course is a basic course in philosophical thinking about morality, moral problems, and moral judgments.

**II. PREREQUISITES FOR THIS COURSE:**

None

**CO-REQUISITES FOR THIS COURSE:**

None

**III. GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION: Topic Outline.**

- Definitions of ethics, morality, values, virtue, rights, and obligation
- Important ethical philosophers and their views of ethical living
- Ethical belief systems sustained in various or diverse cultures
- Absolutist and relativist moral perspectives
- Major theoretical perspectives in ethics
- Ethical issues in contemporary society

**IV. ALL COURSES AT FLORIDA SOUTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE CONTRIBUTE TO THE GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM BY MEETING ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING GENERAL EDUCATION COMPETENCIES:**

**C**ommunicate clearly in a variety of modes and media.

**R**esearch and examine academic and non-academic information, resources, and evidence.

**E**valuate and utilize mathematical principles, technology, scientific and quantitative data.

**A**nalyze and create individual and collaborative works of art, literature, and performance.

**T**hink critically about questions to yield meaning and value.

**I**nvestigate and engage in the transdisciplinary applications of research, learning, and knowledge.

Visualize and engage the world from different historical, social, religious, and cultural approaches.

Engage meanings of active citizenship in one's community, nation, and the world.

#### **A. General Education Competencies and Course Outcomes**

1. Listed here are the course outcomes/objectives assessed in this course which play an *integral* part in contributing to the student's general education along with the general education competency it supports.

General Education Competency: **Think**

Course Outcomes or Objectives Supporting the General Education Competency Selected:

- Recognize competing ethical judgments present within a diverse society.
- Analyze and evaluate ethical judgments different from one's own.
- Criticize, compare, and construct effective arguments in favor of positions on contemporary moral issues.
- Resist the urge for quick and easy answers.
- Engage with the course material on a personal level

2. Listed here are the course outcomes/objectives assessed in this course which play a supplemental role in contributing to the student's general education along with the general education competency it supports.

General Education Competency: **Visualize**

Course Outcomes or Objectives Supporting the General Education Competency Selected:

- Recognize major figures from the history of moral philosophy and appraise their views.
- Demonstrate willingness to inhabit the position of another.
- Relate the course material to life outside the classroom.

#### **V. DISTRICT-WIDE POLICIES:**

##### **PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Florida SouthWestern State College, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the College's guiding principles, offers students with documented disabilities programs to equalize access to the educational process. Students needing to request an accommodation in this class due to a disability, or who suspect that their academic performance is affected by a disability should contact the Office of Adaptive Services at the nearest campus. The office locations and telephone numbers for the Office of Adaptive Services at each campus can be found at <http://www.fsw.edu/adaptiveservices>.

##### **REPORTING TITLE IX VIOLATIONS**

Florida SouthWestern State College, in accordance with Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act, has established a set of procedures for reporting and investigating Title IX violations including sexual misconduct. Students who need to report an incident or need to receive support regarding an incident should contact the Equity Officer at [equity@fsw.edu](mailto:equity@fsw.edu). Incoming students are encouraged to participate in the Sexual Violence Prevention training offered online. Additional information and resources can be found on the College's website at <http://www.fsw.edu/sexualassault>.

**VI. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE STUDENTS:**

Students are expected to attend all classes, participate in discussion, and submit all assignments on time. The required readings should be completed before the student comes to class.

The use of electronic devices is discouraged but permitted for note-taking purposes. I reserve the right to prohibit electronic devices if they are deemed a distraction. Students who use laptop computers or tablets must sit towards the front of the class.

**VII. ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. While attendance is not mandatory, it is *strongly encouraged* for a student’s class participation grade. Attendance will be taken into consideration in cases where a student’s final grade is borderline (one point) to a higher letter grade. Absences that result in missed or late assignments *must* require an excuse, otherwise a grade of zero will be awarded. Excused absences must require written documentation and include, but are not limited to illness, religious holidays, medical emergencies, family emergencies, or school events.

**VIII. GRADING POLICY:**

- Final paper: 20%
- Mid-term exam: 25%
- Persuasive speech: 25%
- Argument maps: 30% (5 total, 6% each)

Students are required to turn in a total of 5 argument maps on various ethical issues that we will cover throughout the course of the semester. These are diagrams illustrating the logical connection between the various steps in an argument. The final paper (1,200-1,500 words) is an expansion of one of these argument maps into written form.

Since there will be only one major writing assignment, students are highly encouraged to submit drafts.

I take plagiarism **VERY** seriously, and any student caught plagiarizing on their assignments will receive an automatic zero for that assignment. Further penalties will be up to my discretion.

At the end of the semester, each student will present a short persuasive speech (4-6 minutes) about one of the issues that will have been covered in the course. Topics must receive prior approval from me.

90 - 100	=	A
80 - 89	=	B
70 - 79	=	C
60 - 69	=	D
Below 60	=	F

(Note: The “incomplete” grade [“I”] should be given only when unusual circumstances warrant. An “incomplete” is not a substitute for a “D,” “F,” or “W.” Refer to the policy on “incomplete grades.”)

**IX. REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:**

Russ Shafer Landau, *The Ethical Life* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed (Oxford University Press: 2015)

**X. RESERVED MATERIALS FOR THE COURSE:**

None

**XI. CLASS SCHEDULE:**

This section includes assignments for each class meeting or unit, along with scheduled Library activities and other scheduled support, including scheduled tests.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Due</u>
WEEK 1	Course introduction / arguments and fallacies	No reading
WEEK 2	Relativism/Objectivism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mackie, "Subjectivity of Values"</li> <li>• Enoch, "Why I Am an Objectivist About Ethics"</li> </ul>
WEEK 3	Religion and Morality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lewis, <i>excerpts</i> from Mere Christianity (canvas)</li> <li>• Plato, Euthyphro</li> <li>• <b><u>ARGUMENT MAP 1 DUE</u></b></li> </ul>
WEEK 4	Deontology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kant, "The Good Will and the Categorical Imperative"</li> <li>• Ross, "What Makes Right Acts Right?"</li> </ul>
WEEK 5	Utilitarianism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smart, "Extreme and Restricted Utilitarianism"</li> </ul>
WEEK 6	Natural law theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foot, "Natural Goodness"</li> <li>• <b><u>ARGUMENT MAP 2 DUE</u></b></li> </ul>
<b><u>WEEK 7</u></b>	<b><u>MID-TERM</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>MID-TERM</u></b></li> </ul>
WEEK 8	Abortion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion"</li> <li>• Lee and George, "The Wrong of Abortion" (canvas)</li> <li>• Beckwith, "The Argument from Bodily Rights: A Critique" (canvas)</li> </ul>
WEEK 9	Sexual ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corvino, "A Defense of Homosexuality"</li> <li>• Hsiao, "Consenting Adults, Sex, and Natural Law Theory" (canvas)</li> <li>• Flores, "The Absurdity of Transgenderism" (canvas)</li> <li>• <b><u>ARGUMENT MAP 3 DUE</u></b></li> </ul>

WEEK 10	Gun control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DeGrazia, "Handguns, Moral Rights, and Physical Security" (canvas)</li> <li>• Bernstein, Hsiao, and Palumbo, "The Moral Right to Keep and Bear Firearms" (canvas)</li> </ul>
WEEK 11	Poverty and World Hunger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Singer, "The Singer Solution to World Poverty"</li> <li>• Narveson, "Feeding the Hungry"</li> <li>• <b><u>ARGUMENT MAP 4 DUE</u></b></li> </ul>
WEEK 12	Vegetarianism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norcross, "Puppies, Pigs, and People"</li> <li>• TBA</li> </ul>
WEEK 13	Capital Punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primoratz, "Justifying Legal Punishment"</li> <li>• Nathanson, "An Eye for an Eye?"</li> <li>• <b><u>ARGUMENT MAP 5 DUE</u></b></li> </ul>
WEEK 14	TBA / RESERVED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBA</li> </ul>
WEEK 15	PRESENTATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRESENTATIONS</li> </ul>

**XII. ANY OTHER INFORMATION OR CLASS PROCEDURES OR POLICIES:**

The College expects all students to be honest in their academic endeavors.

Procedures: The College Catalog prohibits:

1. Cheating on an academic exercise.
2. Plagiarizing the words, ideas, or data of others by not properly acknowledging the source.
3. Fabricating information with the intent to deceive.
4. Submitting any academic accomplishment in whole or in part for credit more than once whether in the same course or in different courses without the explicit consent of the instructor.
5. Obtaining or attempting to obtain an examination before, during, or after the exam has been given.
6. Failing to follow approved test-taking procedures by performing such acts as changing answers after the examination is scored and communicating with another person during an exam or leaving while an exam is in progress without permission.
7. Copying, editing, deleting, or intentionally damaging the College Computer files without permission.
8. Altering, changing, or forging College academic records or forging the signature of any academic officer. The academic penalty for dishonesty violations may result in a student earning a zero/"F" for the assignment or the course as indicated by the particular case."