

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary

Course Prefix and Number: PHI 220 **Credits:** 3

Course Title: Ethics

Course Description:

Provides a systematic study of representative ethical concepts and theories and discusses their application to concrete moral dilemmas and social issues and problems. This is a Passport and UCGS transfer course. Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11. Lecture 3 hours. Total 3 hours per week. 3 credits

General Course Purpose:

To provide a humanities elective which focuses on critical reading, writing, and thinking.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- Explain and apply the criteria that are used in making and evaluating normative judgments of human actions, experiences, policies, and institutions;
- Give an account and explanation for the rise and persistence of the institution of morality in cultures;
- Describe and critique the major proposals for supporting moral decisions without rules and with rules;
- Show the difficulties faced by egoism as a workable standard for moral decisions;
- Give an account of value and of obligation; and
- Give an account of practical argument/reasoning about what ought to be done.

Major Topics to Be Included:

- Moral Judgments: Human desires and conflict; judgments of moral obligation (actions), moral value (persons), general value (interests and experiences)
- Moral Theories: Theories of moral obligation (deontology and teleology); theories of moral value (person worth, merit worth); free will, moral responsibility; theories of general value (hedonism and agathism)
- Critique of Moral Reasoning: Language of moral judgments and theories (definism, intuitionism, noncognitivism, ideal observer); relativism; the moral point of view.

Effective Date/Updated: December 18, 2019