

Introduction to Ethics

Lecturer	John Scott Gray
Institution	Ferris State University
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Teaching time	Morning

Course Description:

This course discusses conceptions of moral conduct and ethical knowledge, focusing on core ethical theories from the history of philosophy. The course also applies ethical principles to present-day ethical dilemmas.

Materials/Text:

James E. White, *Contemporary Moral Problems* (10th edition), 2012.

Requirements:

Students should attend a minimum of 75% of the class sessions. When in class, students will be expected to have completed the reading assignment and come prepared with questions to ask about those readings.

Schedule:

- Class 1 – Introduction to Ethics and Morality
- Class 2 – Thinking Outside the Box and Brainstorming
- Class 3 – Egoism and The Problem of Cultural Relativism
- Class 4 – Mill and Utilitarianism
- Class 5 – Kant and Deontological Ethics
- Class 6 – Exam #1
- Class 7 – Topic 1 – World Poverty
- Class 8 – Topic 1, Continued
- Class 9 – Topic 2 – Animal Rights
- Class 10 – Topic 2, Continued
- Class 11 – Exam #2
- Class 12 – Topic 3 (Student Choice)
- Class 13 – Topic 3 (Student Choice)
- Class 14 – Topic 4 (Student Choice)
- Class 15 – Exam #3

Assignments:

Students must complete three exams, yet only the highest two grades count toward their final grade. Students will also complete occasional in class writing assignments, either as groups or individually (5 to 8 assignments – lowest score will be dropped). Students will also complete a reflective journal every other class (eight total), and this will be turned in electronically.

Evaluation:

Exams (2 of 3) – 50%

Journals – 25%

In-Class Assignments (lowest score dropped) – 25%