



Western Technical College

# 10809166 Introduction to Ethics: Theory and Application

## Course Outcome Summary

### Course Information

<b>Description</b>	This course provides a basic understanding of the theoretical foundations of ethical thought. Diverse ethical perspectives will be used to analyze and compare relevant issues. Students will critically evaluate individual, social and professional standards of behavior, and apply a systematic decision-making process to these situations.
<b>Instructional Level</b>	Associate Degree Courses
<b>Total Credits</b>	3
<b>Total Hours</b>	54

### Textbooks

*The Elements of Moral Philosophy*. 9th Edition. Copyright 2019. Rachels, James and Stuart Rachels. Publisher: McGraw-Hill Publishing Company. **ISBN-13**: 978-1-260-21296-9. Required.

### Success Abilities

1. Cultivate Passion: Expand a Growth-Mindset
2. Refine Professionalism: Act Ethically
3. Refine Professionalism: Improve Critical Thinking
4. Refine Professionalism: Practice Effective Communication

### Course Competencies

#### 1. Summarize major ethical theories.

##### Assessment Strategies

- 1.1. Oral, Written or Graphic Assessment

##### Criteria

*You will know you are successful when*

- 1.1. you describe consequential theories.
- 1.2. you describe non-consequential/deontological theories.
- 1.3. you describe virtue theories.

- 1.4. you describe the similarities and difference between consequential, non-consequential/deontological, and virtue theories.
- 1.5. you include at least 5 major theories in your assessment.
- 1.6. you use appropriate terminology.

#### **Learning Objectives**

- 1.a. Know key terms associated with ethical theories.
- 1.b. Identify major ethical theories.
- 1.c. Examine commonalities between ethical theories.
- 1.d. Examine differences between ethical theories.

### **2. Evaluate major ethical theories.**

#### **Assessment Strategies**

- 2.1. Oral, Written or Graphic Assessment

#### **Criteria**

*You will know you are successful when*

- 2.1. you identify strengths and weaknesses of various theories.
- 2.2. you compare strengths and weaknesses of various theories.
- 2.3. you contrast strengths and weaknesses of various theories.
- 2.4. you use appropriate terminology.

#### **Learning Objectives**

- 2.a. Know key terms of major ethical theories.
- 2.b. Examine strengths of various theories.
- 2.c. Examine weaknesses of various theories.
- 2.d. Reason out what makes a value a strength or a weakness.
- 2.e. Develop an argument based on your reasoning.

### **3. Apply ethical theories to challenging situations.**

#### **Assessment Strategies**

- 3.1. Oral, Written or Graphic Assessment

#### **Criteria**

*You will know you are successful when*

- 3.1. you use ethical theories in your assessment.
- 3.2. you correctly relate the principles of each theory.
- 3.3. you determine recommended course of action based on theory.
- 3.4. you determine implications of applying each theory.
- 3.5. you use appropriate terminology.

#### **Learning Objectives**

- 3.a. Identify a current challenging situation.
- 3.b. Examine the situation in context of each ethical theory.
- 3.c. Explore potential courses of action for the situation.
- 3.d. Identify potential implications of course of action.
- 3.e. Produce a developed argument for final course of action and implications.

### **4. Examine the role of values in ethical theories.**

#### **Assessment Strategies**

- 4.1. Oral, Written or Graphic Assessment

#### **Criteria**

*You will know you are successful when*

- 4.1. you explain the fundamental values underlying ethical theories.
- 4.2. you analyze how different fundamental values influence ethical theories.
- 4.3. you describe how dissimilar fundamental values can lead to similar moral conclusions.
- 4.4. you identify personal values.
- 4.5. you use appropriate terminology.

### **Learning Objectives**

- 4.a. Identify different connotations for the words: ethics, values, and morals.
- 4.b. Identify the values associated with ethical theories.
- 4.c. Reason out good and bad values.
- 4.d. Examine how values influence ethical theories.
- 4.e. Examine your personal values.

## **5. Develop a personal ethical decision-making process.**

### **Assessment Strategies**

- 5.1. Oral, Written or Graphic Assessment

### **Criteria**

*You will know you are successful when*

- 5.1. you assimilate personal values with principles of ethical theories.
- 5.2. you justify your decision-making process using components of ethical theories.
- 5.3. you identify the steps involved in the process.
- 5.4. you articulate the implications of your decision-making process.
- 5.5. you summarize personal strategies for responding to diverse points of view in ethical situations.
- 5.6. you utilize appropriate terminology.

### **Learning Objectives**

- 5.a. Connect personal values to ethical theories.
- 5.b. Examine decision making processes.
- 5.c. Explore which processes seem applicable and others that do not apply to you.
- 5.d. Determine how personal values may effect your response to diverse points of view.
- 5.e. Apply your personal values to the decision making process.
- 5.f. Produce a developed argument to justify your selected decision making process.

## **6. Defend an ethical stance based on a selected issue.**

### **Assessment Strategies**

- 6.1. Oral, Written or Graphic Assessment

### **Criteria**

*You will know you are successful when*

- 6.1. you summarize the moral values involved.
- 6.2. you explain the adopted position using moral theories to justify the position.
- 6.3. you explain how those values influence the decision.
- 6.4. you identify alternative decisions that could also be made.
- 6.5. you evaluate the alternative decision against the adopted position.
- 6.6. you provide an ethical argument for the adopted position.
- 6.7. you use appropriate terminology.

### **Learning Objectives**

- 6.a. Research an ethical or moral issue.
- 6.b. Identify the values included in the issue.
- 6.c. Reason out which positions seem applicable and others that do not apply.
- 6.d. Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the adopted position vs alternative positions.
- 6.e. Produce a developed argument for the adopted position.