

PHI 293: Ethics and The Media Professions

Summer 2024 (Online/Asynchronous)

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description.

The goal of this course is to learn how to *think philosophically* about ethical issues raised in the realm of media (such as censorship and pornography etc). Towards this end, we will first learn how to *think philosophically* in general. Then, we briefly explore three major ethical theories. Finally, we will explore applications of those theories to various ethical issues raised in the media realm. After taking this course, students will be able to think critically about and properly address current ethical issues in the media realm.

Course Material.

There is no required textbook for this course.

Course Schedule.

2-3 lecture-videos per week

Week 1. Philosophy and Definition

- (1) Explaining the course
- (2) What is philosophy? (Definitions)
- (3) Relativism and Objectivism about Morality

Week 2. Definitions & Sufficient and Necessary conditions

- (1) Sufficient and Necessary conditions
- (2) Inferences & Sufficient and Necessary conditions
- (3) Counterexamples & Sufficient and Necessary conditions

Week 3. Thought-Experiments

- (1) Thought-Experiments 1: Harm
- (2) Thought-Experiments 2: Manipulation
- (3) Thought-Experiments 3: Inheriting wealth & Unfairness

Week 4-5. Consequentialism, Kantian ethics & Virtue ethics

Week 6. Ethical issues in the media realm & Applications of theories

Course Evaluation.

1. 4 short-writing assignments (half-page; double-spaced): **35%**

- Week 1: What do you think is the most pressing ethical issue in the media realm?: **5%**

For the following three assignments, you will first find an ethical issue in the media realm and explore the application of each theory to the ethical issue.

- Week 4: An assignment on Consequentialism: **10%**
- Week 5: An assignment on Kantian ethics: **10%**
- Week 6: An assignment on Virtue ethics: **10%**

Each assignment is **due by the end of each week.**

2. 3 quizzes: **30%** (each quiz worth **10%**)

- Week 1: a quiz on Week 1's class materials
- Week 2: a quiz on Week 2's class materials
- Week 3: a quiz on Week 3's class materials

Each quiz is **due by the end of each week.**

3. Final Project **due 8/11** (two pages; double-spaced): **35%**

- (i) Pick an ethical issue in the media realm.
- (ii) Explain the issue.
- (ii) Briefly evaluate the applications of the three ethical theories to the issue.
- (iv) Take a side on the ethical issue, using *your own* moral reasoning.

Grade Scales (SU standard)

A	94-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-90
B	83-87
B-	80-83
C+	77-80
C	73-77
C-	70-73
D	60-70
F	0-60

Policy Statement on Accommodation for Disabilities and Special Needs.

Students who are in need of disability-related academic accommodations must register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 804 University Avenue, Room 309, (315) 443-4498. Students with authorized disability-related accommodations should provide a current Accommodation Authorization Letter from ODS to the instructor and review these accommodations with the instructor. Accommodations, such as exam administration, are not provided retroactively; therefore, planning for accommodation as early as possible is necessary.

For more information, see the Office of Disability Services, <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>.

Policy Statement on Academic Integrity.

The Syracuse University Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the Policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about instructor and general academic expectations with regard to proper citation of sources in written work. The policy also governs the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments as well as the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verifications of participation in class activities. Serious sanctions can result from academic dishonesty of any sort.

For more information and the complete policy, see the Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures on the University's website at <http://academicintegrity.syr.edu>.

Religious Observations.

The university recognizes the diversity of faiths represented in the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, staff to observe religious holy days according to their tradition. Under this policy, students have an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance, provided they notify the instructor no later than the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes and by the submission deadline for flexibility classes.