



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

## PHL 250 Society and Ethics

Summer 2024

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

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This course delves into the ethical dilemmas arising from various social issues prevalent in contemporary society, including inequality, poverty, war, corporate responsibility, the treatment of animals, and the impact of social media. Students will critically examine these issues against the backdrop of major ethical and political theories. The course aims to develop students' understanding of ethical frameworks, their ability to analyze complex ethical problems, and their capacity to engage in informed ethical discourse.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Identify the primary moral theories, including Kantian duty ethics, Utilitarianism, and Virtue Ethics, distinguish the primary difference between the theories, and evaluate the strengths and weakness of each theory
2. Apply moral theories, including those of Utilitarianism, Kantian duty ethics, and Virtue Ethics to contemporary moral issues
3. Critically evaluate facts and arguments of both sides of contemporary moral issues
4. Explore and analyze ethical problems arising from social issues in contemporary society
5. Understand major ethical and political theories and their relevance to addressing social dilemmas
6. Develop critical thinking skills in evaluating ethical arguments and applying ethical principles to real-world scenarios
7. Foster an awareness of the complexity and interconnectedness of social issues



and ethical concerns

## **PREREQUISITES**

N/A

## **GRADING**

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
Quiz	20 Points
Short Essay	20 Points
Philosophical Reflection Paper	20 Points
Final Term Paper	40 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$ .

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

### **Required Texts:**

Shafer-Landau, Russ. *The Fundamentals of Ethics*. 3rd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, USA, 2014.

### **Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:**

None

## **COURSE TOPICS**

<b>MODULE</b>	<b>TASKS</b>
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Module 1	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 1: Ethical Theory  Topic 2: Inequality and Poverty  Topic 3: Examination of the ethical implications of income inequality, wealth disparity, and poverty  Topic 4: Evaluation of social justice theories</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Quiz</p>
Module 2	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 5: War and Conflict  Topic 6: Ethical considerations related to war, armed conflict, and the use of force  Topic 7: Analysis of ethical challenges in military ethics, humanitarian intervention, and peacebuilding efforts  Topic 8: Corporate Responsibility</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Short Essay</p>
Module 3	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 9: Ethical dimensions of corporate behavior, including corporate social responsibility and sustainability  Topic 10: Accountability of corporations: Stakeholders, Employees, communities, and the environment  Topic 11: Treatment of Animals  Topic 12: Ethical Issues</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Philosophical Reflection Paper 1</p>
Module 4	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 13: Exploration of Alternatives and Approaches to Promoting Ethical Treatment of Animals  Topic 14: Social Media and Ethics  Topic 15: Ethical challenges in the use and impact of social media platforms  Topic 16: Privacy, data ethics, and online harassment</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Philosophical Reflection Paper 2</p>
Module 5	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 17: Ethical Leadership  Topic 18: Authentic Leadership and Emotional Intelligence  Topic 19: Voicing Leadership Values  Topic 20: Ethical Decision-Making/Leadership Practice</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Final Term Paper</p>



## **ATTENDANCE**

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

## **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

## **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).



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## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.