

## PHIL 2201: ETHICS (3 credits)

LUSHER CHARTER SCHOOL (SECTION 761):  
ISIDORE NEWMAN SCHOOL (SECTION 762):

Meets: A Day, 3<sup>rd</sup> Block  
Meets: A Block

Contact  
Information

**UNO Instructor:** Dr. Chris W. Surprenant  
**Teaching Assistant:** Mr. Kevin E. Stuart  
**Office:** UNO: LA 387  
**Office Hours:** (office) M: 1-2pm, Th: 1-4pm (and by appointment)  
(Skype, cwsurprenant) Tues: 10-11am (and by appointment)  
**Office Phone:** (504) 280-6819  
**Email:** csurpren@uno.edu and stuartsemail@gmail.com  
**Course Webpages:** Accessed via school websites.

Required  
Texts

[1] *Disputed Moral Issues*, edited by Timmons, Oxford UP, 1998. ISBN: 080199946792

Course  
Description

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** A study of concepts of right and wrong, good and evil, and their grounds.

**COURSE OVERVIEW:** The course is designed to introduce the student to the basic ethical theories—both historical and contemporary—and to the ongoing debate concerning the most controversial moral issues of our day. Such issues include abortion, euthanasia, the welfare of the environment and animals, as well as concerns for economic and social justice.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to do the following:
- recognize philosophical questions, particularly those surrounding moral controversies
  - know the primary ethical theories throughout the history of philosophy
  - understand and articulate the various ethical controversies that have surfaced in contemporary times.
  - work with philosophical concepts and methods, and to construct and evaluate arguments
  - participate in classroom discussion, developing and displaying an ability and readiness
  - defend one's own point of view while listening openly but carefully to others
  - demonstrate a willingness to entertain criticism, formulate and reply to reasonable objections, and represent opposing views both critically and sympathetically
  - to read both primary and secondary texts and analyze the arguments contained in them correctly

Grading

Requirement		Final grade	
<b>First Paper</b>	(15%) 15 points	<b>A</b>	100 – 89.5 points
<b>Second Paper</b>	(15%) 15 points	<b>B</b>	89.4 – 79.5 points
<b>First Presentation</b>	(10%) 10 points	<b>C</b>	79.4 – 69.5 points
<b>Final Project</b>	(40%) 40 points	<b>D</b>	69.4 – 59.5 points
<b>Class Participation</b>	(20%) 20 points	<b>F</b>	59.4 — 0 points

**Attendance and Class Participation:** The University of New Orleans has a strict attendance policy. Attendance and intelligent participation at all class meetings is expected. Attendance will be kept via the response papers due at the beginning of each class.

**Papers:** Three papers are due during the course of the semester. Their due dates are listed on the course schedule. The papers should be no longer than 1000 words each, not including references. Additional information about the papers, including writing prompts, will be provided in class.

**Presentations:** The two presentations identified in the grading chart above are connected to the Well-Being Project, which is described below.

**Well-Being Project:** Think of something good to do that contributes to human well-being. Do it. For your final project, write up a paper explaining what you did or tried to do, why you thought it was good to do, what happened along the way, and what you learned. Explain why what you did contributes to human well-being, whether you succeeded or failed, and defend the standard by which you assess yourself. Why did you succeed or fail? You will also present your project to the class at two times during the fall semester, and two times during the spring semester.

For this project the class will divide up into groups of three or four. Each group will have access to \$1000 in seed money to get your project going. For your project, you may do anything you want as long as (1) it contributes to human well-being, (2) does not violate state laws, or (3) violates school policy. When using the \$1000 seed money provided to your group for this project, this money must be spent in a manner consistent with rules governing how money from a 501(c)3 organization can be spent. You also will have a limited number of opportunities to present your ideas and plan to the various relevant administrators for approval. You will need to have thought through your plans in advance. Just like in the real world, there will be a time penalty for not having all of your questions or plans available at the appropriate times. (This penalty is not imposed by me, but is a function of the schedules of the administrators who must approve these projects.)

The point of this project is to make decisions on your own and to use the resources available to you. While you are free to ask Dr. Surprenant or Mr. Stuart for advice, it is likely that they do not have any special knowledge of the area in which you plan to operate. But that does not mean that you shouldn't ask *other people* for advice, and use *other people* you have access to as important resources—you should do this. Other people will have specialized knowledge, and you should use this knowledge to your advantage.

It is likely that most groups will fail to achieve the results they set out to achieve. While it is not okay to fail due to lack of effort, you will not get a bad grade merely because your project failed. Instead, it will depend on what you learned. If you failed, why did you fail? Conversely, if you succeeded, why did you succeed? You will have to justify the standards by which you judge your success and failure. Did you do promote well-being? Was it worth the cost in money and time?

At the end of the spring semester, you will present what you have done at an end of the year event, which will include students from the other section (and school), your parents, administrators from both schools, and a number of local community leaders. Groups with failed projects will have to explain why they believe their project failed and what they learned from this failure. You will need to create a video for this final presentation. This video should summarize your project, what good you have done, incorporate videos and pictures showing your work, and should last between 5 and 10 minutes.

<b>ACADEMIC HONESTY:</b>	Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at <a href="http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu">http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu</a> . Each student is required to pledge that all completed work will be submitting according to the principles of academic integrity as defined in the statement on Academic Dishonesty in the UNO Student Code of Conduct
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	The University of New Orleans has a strict attendance policy. Attendance and intelligent participation at all class meetings is expected. Attendance will be kept via the response papers due at the beginning of each class.
<b>DISABILITIES</b>	It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to <a href="http://www.ods.uno.edu">http://www.ods.uno.edu</a> .
<b>DUAL-ENROLLMENT</b>	All students enrolled in this course will be dual-enrolled as students in PHIL 1000 at the University of New Orleans. Students must abide by UNO student policies, as well as the policies of their own high school. All costs associated with dual-enrollment at UNO will be covered by the Tocqueville Project at UNO.
<b>ELECTRONICS</b>	Computers, phones, and similar devices are not allowed in class. If you are on one of these devices (e.g., texting) and I see you (and, believe me, I will see you), I will stop class and we will have a phone quiz. Phone quizzes will consist of one, short answer question, graded on a 4-point scale. Everyone who takes the quiz will score at least 1 out of 4 points. Students not present will be exempt (since they are already being penalized by the absence policy). The person who was on his/her phone will not be allowed to take the quiz and will receive a 0. Quizzes will count towards each student's attendance grade.
<b>INCOMPLETES</b>	Incompletes are <b>STRONGLY</b> discouraged. Should you need to take an incomplete, arrangements must be made with me well before the last class meeting.
<b>LATE STARTS</b>	There are no special dispensations for late-start students.
<b>LATE WORK</b>	For each day an assignment is late, you will be penalized 1/2 of a letter grade.
<b>STUDENT CONDUCT</b>	Feel free to say anything to me or to your peers, but tailor your remarks so as not to be uncivil, abusive, or inappropriate. I will not tolerate ANY abusive behavior, so do not engage in any personal attacks or name calling.

## **Course Schedule**

*Dates of specific readings will be provided in class.*

January	Refresher on argument structures and informal fallacies. Background readings in moral theory and the history of moral philosophy. (pp. 1-83)
February	Sexual Morality and Marriage (pp. 84-132) Pornography, Hate Speech, and Censorship (pp. 133-187) Drugs and Addiction (pp. 188-243) Sexism, Racism, and Reparation (pp. 244-275)
March	The Ethics of Immigration (pp. 276-339) Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide (pp. 340-379) The Ethical Treatment of Animals (pp. 380-422) Abortion (pp. 423-480)
April – May	Cloning and Genetic Enhancement (pp. 481-534) The Death Penalty (pp. 535-563) War, Terrorism, and Torture (pp. 564-641) World Hunger and Poverty (pp. 642-686) The Environment, Consumption, and Climate Change (pp. 687-745)