

**Semester at Sea, Course Syllabus  
Colorado State University, Academic Partner**

**Voyage:** Spring 2017  
**Discipline:** Philosophy  
**Course Number and Title:** PHIL 205 Introduction to Ethics  
**Division:** Lower  
**Faculty Name:** Mary Ann G. Cutter, Ph.D.  
**Semester Credit Hours:** 3  
**Meeting Days:** B Days, 13:40-15:00 (Kaisersaal Port)

**Prerequisites:** Must not be a freshman

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The objectives of this course are to introduce students to main concepts and theories in the field of philosophical ethics and to give students experience in making and justifying ethical decisions. The class considers some of the basic questions of ethics: How should we live our lives? Why should I be moral? How does one judge in the ethical life? Are there unifying themes in global ethics? The class looks at how philosophers have answered these questions in the past and how their answers might be relevant to contemporary ethical dilemmas. Readings include both classical and contemporary texts taken from western, African, and Asian traditions. In the course, students have a chance to consider basic questions of right and wrong in a global comparative context, and, in doing so, gain experience in thinking critically, reasoning carefully, and writing articulately.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

At the completion of this course, each student will be able to:

1. understand that discussions in ethics have a long history,
2. identify ethical arguments drawn from particular ethical traditions,
3. formulate ethical arguments that reflect his or her own ethical standpoint, and
4. think through shared and differing value appeals found in ethical debates in global comparative contexts.

**REQUIRED READING MATERIALS**

**AUTHOR:** Pojman, Louis P.  
**TITLE:** *How Should We Live?*  
**PUBLISHER:** Wadsworth  
**ISBN #:** 13: 978-0-534-55657-0  
**DATE/EDITION:** 2005

Hereafter this text is designated at P

**AUTHOR:** Cutter, Mary Ann G. (ed.)  
**TITLE:** *Introduction to Ethics: Companion Readings*  
**PUBLISHER:**  
**ISBN #:**  
**DATE/EDITION:**

Available on the ship's Intranet. Hereafter, this text is designated as SI

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

*(May be revised with notice during the term, at the discretion of the instructor)*

(Key: P=Pojman book; SI=available on Ship Intranet in *Introduction to Ethics: Companion Readings*;  
PJ= philosophy journal)

	Date	Lecture Topics	Assignments (due on the day indicated)	Discussion Leaders
<b>B1</b>	1/8	Course Introduction	Review of the syllabus Assign discussion leaders	no discussion leaders today
<b>B2</b>	1/10	Why do we need morality?	P, Ch. 1 PJ #1	1-4
<b>B3</b>	1/13	Ethical Beliefs of Native Hawaiians (polytheism, animism)	SI, Hawaiian Religion	5-8
	1/12	<b>ARRIVE IN HONOLULU, HAWAII</b>		
<b>B4</b>	1/15	Why should I be moral?	P, Ch. 2 PJ #2	9-12
<b>B5</b>	1/18	Who's to judge?	P, Ch. 3	13-16
<b>B6</b>	1/21	Why do ethics matter?	P, Ch. 4	17-20
<b>B7</b>	1/23	Ethical Beliefs in Japan (Shintoism, Buddhism)	SI, Japanese Philosophy	21-25
	1/24	<b>ARRIVE IN KOBE, JAPAN</b>		
<b>B8</b>	1/30	Ethical Beliefs in China (Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism)	SI, Chinese Philosophy PJ #3	1-4
	1/31	<b>ARRIVE IN SHANGHAI, CHINA</b>		
<b>B9</b>	2/7	Religion and Ethics	P, Ch. 5 PJ #4	5-8
<b>B10</b>	2/9	Ethical Beliefs in Vietnam (Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism)	SI, Vietnamese Philosophy	9-12
	2/10	<b>ARRIVE IN HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM</b>		
<b>B11</b>	2/16	Utilitarianism	P, Ch. 6; SI, Mill PJ #5	13-16
<b>B12</b>	2/19	Ethical Beliefs in Burma (Buddhism, Christianity, Islam)	SI, Abrahamic Beliefs <b>Discuss final paper</b>	17-20
	2/20	<b>ARRIVE IN YANGON, BURMA</b>		
<b>B13</b>	2/26	Deontology	P, Ch. 7 SI, Kant PJ #6	21-25
<b>B14</b>	2/28	Ethical Beliefs in India (Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism)	SI, Buddhist Ethics	1-4
	3/1	<b>ARRIVE IN COCHIN, INDIA</b>	<b>Field Class (Wed. 3/1): Medical Tourism and Family Planning in India</b>	

B15	3/8	Virtue-Based Ethics in the Western Philosophies	P, Ch. 8 SI, Aristotle PJ #7	5-8
B16	3/11	Virtue-Based Ethics in Asian Philosophies	Review Wong and Goodman  <b>Field Class Essay Due</b>	9-12
B17	3/14	Ethical Beliefs in Mauritius/ Human Rights	SI, Ethics in Mauritius P, Ch. 9	13-16
	3/12	ARRIVE PORT LUIS, MAURITIUS		
B18	3/17	Ethical Beliefs in South Africa (Christianity, secular democracy)	SI, African Ethics	17-20
	3/19	ARRIVE CAPE TOWN, S.A.		
B19	3/25	Human Rights in Apartheid Movement	SI, Human Rights in South Africa	1-4
B20	3/27	Justice	SI, Global Justice PJ #8	
B21	3/30	Ethical Beliefs in Ghana (Christianity, folk beliefs, Islam)	Review: African Ethics  <b>Final Paper Due</b>	5-8
	3/31	ARRIVE IN TEMA, GHANA	PJ#9	
B22	4/5	Is there a global ethics?	SI, Global Ethics	9-12
B23	4/7	Is there a global ethics?	Review: Global Ethics	13-16
B24	4/9	Ethical Beliefs in Morocco (Islam)  Course evaluation	SI, Islamic Ethics PJ #10 <b>PJ Final Check</b>	17-20
	4/10	Study Day		
	4/11	ARRIVE IN CASABLANCA, MOROCCO		
B25	4/16	Closing	Work Returned	21-25
	4/19	Arrive Hamburg, Germany		

## FIELD WORK

**Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class.** Field Classes constitute at least 20% of the contact hours for each course.

### Field Class and Assignment

The Field Class for this course will take place on Wednesday, March, 1, 2017, in Cochin, India.

### Medical Tourism and Family Planning in India

In this field class, we visit a hospital facility specializing in medical tourism, and in particular in-vitro fertilization and surrogacy. The facility provides services for couples from other countries who travel to

India to have their embryos created and implanted into Indian women who will serve as gestational carriers for the couples at a cost significantly less than they would have paid in their home countries. At a second hospital facility, we learn about contraceptive and abortion services in India as a means of family planning, managing Indian population growth, and reducing infant and maternal mortality in India. In keeping with the themes of the class, we discuss the ethical issues raised by such services in the contexts of patient rights, patient welfare, and social justice.

Objective:

1. deepen our understanding of medical tourism and the ethical issues that it raises
2. deepen our understanding of medical surrogacy and the ethical issues it raises
3. deepen our understanding of family planning and abortion in India, with particular emphasis on the ethics of sex selection

Assignment: Write a 4-page reflective essay detailing what is observed at the sites and provide an analysis of the ethical issues raised in the health care context. Integrate class readings when appropriate. See rubric below.

**Independent Field Assignments**

During port visits, students in the course will be asked to keep a journal of observations about ethics each country. Students will be asked to report back in classes while at sea about these observations. Keep detailed notes while ashore and document what you observe. Your observations may be incorporated into your philosophy journal reflections and/or final paper.

**METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING SCALE**

The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned on Semester at Sea in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the SAS partner institution). Pluses and minuses are awarded as follows on a 100% scale:

<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Satisfactory/Poor</u>	<u>Failing</u>
97-100%: A+	87-89%: B+	77-79%: C+	Less than 60%: F
94-96%: A	84-86%: B	70-76%: C	
90-93%: A-	80-83%: B-	60-69%: D	

In the course, there will be a philosophy journal, field class essay, discussion points, and final essay:

max points	assignment or exam
30	Philosophy journal: initial plus 9 ports (1 page each entry) (10 X 3 points each)
20	Field class essay (3 pages)
20	Discussion points (for leader role) (4 X 5 points each)
30	Final thesis-driven paper (5 pages)
100	Total points possible

**ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

**Attendance:** Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to

enable students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor's supervision (e.g., discussion points). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

**Engagement in course:**

(1) **Preparing for class:** Students are to complete the readings prior to attending class.

(2) **Philosophy Journal (PJ)** (1 page each entry): In your own words, summarize what you have learned about either the ethical question or problem being raised or the ethical tradition that is being summarized. Work is checked on the class that it is due.

max points	Criteria	Y e s	P a r t	N o
1	Critical analysis of reading and voyage experience			
1	Clearly written journal entry			
1	Page length met (1 page)			
<b>3</b>	<b>Total points (10 total=30 points max)</b>			

(3) **Field Class Essay (FCE)** (3 pages) (due Class 16, 3/11):

max points	Criteria	Y e s	P a r t	N o
4	Clear statement of field topic			
4	Clear analysis of field topic			
4	Integration of readings and citations			
4	Clearly written essay			
4	Page length met (3 pages)			
<b>20</b>	<b>Total points possible</b>			

(4) **Discussion Points:** Be prepared to lead discussion on the assigned reading(s) on your assigned days.

max points	Criteria	Y e s	P a r t	N o
1	Come prepared for discussion			
1	Provide summary of a main point in reading			
1	Apply reading lesson to personal or voyage experience			
1	Able to respond to questions			
1	Able to remain attentive during class discussion			

<b>5</b>	<b>Total points possible</b>			

(5) **Final Paper** (5 pages) (due Class 21, 3/30): The final exam will be a thesis-driven paper that addresses a topic raised in the course. The topic is the student’s choice. The topic can build on a philosophy journal entry or class readings.

<b>max points</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Y e s</b>	<b>P a r t</b>	<b>N o</b>
6	Clear thesis			
6	Clear analysis			
6	Clearly written			
6	Clearly supported by class readings and citations			
6	Page length met (5 pages)			
<b>30</b>	<b>Total points possible</b>			

**LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS**

Semester at Sea provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a class should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation. A memo from the student’s home institution verifying the accommodations received on their home campus is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit this verification of accommodations pre-voyage as soon as possible, but no later than November 19, 2016 to [academic@isevoyages.org](mailto:academic@isevoyages.org).

**STUDENT CONDUCT CODE**

The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one’s own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: “I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment.”

**RESERVE BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY**

AUTHOR: Aristotle  
 TITLE: *Nicomachean Ethics*  
 PUBLISHER: whatever is available

AUTHOR: Immanuel Kant  
 TITLE: *Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals*  
 PUBLISHER: whatever is available

AUTHOR: John Stuart Mill  
TITLE: *Utilitarianism*  
PUBLISHER: whatever is available

**ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS** (available through the ship intranet)  
EDITOR: Mary Ann G. Cutter  
TITLE: *Introduction to Ethics: Companion Readings* (called SI in syllabus)