PHIL 210 Ethics
3 Credits

Course Description

This course is a philosophical examination of the kind of reasoning which helps to determine the rightness or wrongness of human actions. Reasoned principles are applied to such contemporary situations as capital punishment, pornography, euthanasia, abortion, war and terrorism, cloning, and social welfare.

Required Text

21st Century Ethics by Glenn Rogers
Publisher: NSS Press, 2013

NOTE: this book comes in the form of a CD, which has an access code allowing you to view the book's contents online.

Contact Coleen at the NDSCS Bookstore for the most current textbook information (1-800-342-4325, ext. 2239 or coleen.thoe@ndscs.edu). You may also visit the NDSCS Bookstore web site at www.ndscsbookstore.com and search for book information by class by clicking the "Textbook" tab.

Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate understanding of ethical thinking, ethical theories, and worldviews
- Demonstrate ethical thinking skills, informed and enriched by a diversity of viewpoints, concerning contemporary ethical issues
- Demonstrate confidence and civility in discussing differences of viewpoint
- Demonstrate a measured evaluation concerning personal ethical viewpoints

Course Policies and Procedures

Access Policy: Computer Failures and Viruses

Online students must maintain computer access at all times to the online course. Lack of computer access as an excuse for late work or missed exam/quiz will NOT be accepted. Review the Computer Access Policy to learn how you can take a proactive approach to your online success.

Student Attendance

Regular attendance and completion of all assignments, on time and as scheduled, is important to your success in this course. An online student who does not regularly attend their online class for a period of seven consecutive days may be dropped from the course. Attendance is evidenced by weekly completion of assignments and/or participation in online discussions. Efforts to contact inactive students are attempted as soon as each semester begins; however, if there is no response from the student and inactivity continues, a drop will be enacted. See the entire NDSCS Attendance Policy at www.ndscs.edu/online-attendance.

If your instructor is unexpectedly unavailable and may be delayed in reviewing or correcting assignments, you will be notified of this as a sign of courtesy and respect.

Online Student Participation and Conduct Guidelines

The practices of courtesy and respect that apply in the traditional classroom also apply online. However, the expectations and practice differ in the online classroom to greater extent. Review the Online Student Participation and Conduct Guidelines (**Appendix A**) to learn of these expectations.

Assignments

Please follow the order of units as each unit will build onto the next one and will be accessible according to the schedule posted within the online course.

Assignments and quizzes within each chapter are **due within specified time frames**. Refer to the Schedule for specific due dates.

Each unit contains an "Assignment" content item specifying what is to be done for that unit. Follow those instructions. Submit assignments as directed. Don't lose your work: write your discussion responses and SARE entries in Word, then copy and paste them into the course room.

Assignments are expected to be submitted by the due date. **Past due assignments will be accepted for up to 10 days after the due date**, **with a 5% per day deduction**. Exceptions may be made in extreme situations, provided the instructor is notified in timely fashion.

Missing five or more discussion question final deadlines is grounds for the final grade to be dropped one letter. **Late Discussion Board posts will not be accepted**

Be prepared to spend **at least four (4) hours per week** in the online class, studying, and completing assignments.

Discussions

The discussions are intended to be an ongoing conversation about the topic for the unit. You are responsible to make your own views known as well as to raise questions related to the topic and respond to the questions and comments made by others. You are expected to process what you read and incorporate ideas from the reading into your discussion responses. You are also expected to demonstrate respect for all other participants and their viewpoints.

SARE

SARE entries are intended to be made after all unit assignments have been completed. SARE stands for self-assessment reflection and evaluation. Only you and the instructor will be able to view your SARE entries. SARE entries are intended to develop your skills in reflecting and evaluating. They are considered a vital part of developing ethical thinking skills!

Exercises, Reviews, Quizzes, Polls, and Bio

Various reviews, exercises and quizzes are utilized in the course. All these are intended to test student comprehension of relevant material. Polls assist students in clarifying their views on a given topic. Students are expected to submit a brief bio for the Class Cyber Gallery. Extra credit can be earned by submitting a digital photo.

Ethical Philosophy Statement

This will be a short paper which describes your ethical philosophy in life – the values and convictions by which you live. Further details are available in Units 5-6.

Ethical Position Paper

You will write one paper on an ethical issue that is covered in this course or one that is closely related to your major. Further information is available in Units 11-16.

Self-Assessments

The initial ethical, ethical theory, and final ethical self-assessments are a means for you to explore your viewpoints as well as identify how they have been impacted as a result of participating in the course.

Grading Policies

The grade for this course will be based on how well you **understand, think, write,** and **evaluate**. The specific assignments used to measure these four categories are: discussions, SARE entries, exercises, papers, quizzes, self-assessments, and online introduction.

Completed assignments will *normally* be scored and returned during the week following completion of the unit, according to the following:

1. Discussion responses, quizzes, exercises, and SARE entries by Wednesday
2. Longer writing assignments by Friday

These are target dates, and may not always be met. In such case, an announcement will be posted. Points will be awarded for assignments and a letter grade assigned at the end of the term.

Minimum Assignment Requirements

Earning sufficient points to receive a "D" or higher score on the grading scale is but one criteria to receive a passing grade in this class. These minimum assignment requirements must also be met:

1. Earn 15 points or higher in 10 or more unit discussions by timely participation
2. Submit 12 or more SARE entries which earn 9 points or higher
3. Submit an Ethical Philosophy Statement which earns at least 24 points
4. Submit an Ethical Position Paper which earns at least 60 points
5. Complete three self-assessments, earning at least 12 points on each

Discussions

The online discussions are required activities, and full participation is essential for your success of this course. These discussions are an equivalent to the traditional classroom discussions. You are expected to read all postings, and interact with each other.

Discussion responses received more than 24 hours after the unit deadline will not earn any points. Emergencies may be grounds for an exception – but that does not include simply having too much on your plate!

SARE Entries

The SARE Expectations presentation lays out the rubric and the "SARE Entry Expectations" link in each unit summarizes this information.

Exercises, Reviews, Quizzes, Polls, and Bio

Exercises, reviews, and quizzes range in point value from 10 to 20. Polls are worth five points each. Cyber Gallery introduction is worth 5 points; 5 extra credit points for submitting a digital photo.

Papers

The scoring details for the ethical philosophy statement are found in the content item in Units 5 & 6. The ethical position paper scoring details are found in the Units 11-16 content items.

Self-Assessments

Each of the four self-assessments are worth 20 points, and scoring criteria are indicated on each of the assessments.

Grading Scale

GRADED ITEM	PERCENTAGE OF FINAL GRADE
Discussion Responses	29.75%
SARE Entries	22.50%
Reviews/Exercises/Quizzes/Bio	22.75%
Papers	17%
Self-Assessments	8%
Extra Credit Points	**15**
Total Possible Points	**1015**

Letter grades will be awarded as follows:

LETTER GRADE	PERCENT
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	Below 60%

Student-Instructor Communications

While an online class is available 24 hours a day and offers greater flexibility for the student and instructor, keep in mind that your instructor will not be available 24 hours a day. Instructors will check email, voicemail, and Cyber Office messages on a regular basis, but there may be times when they are unavailable due to other commitments and job responsibilities. Email, voicemail, or Cyber Office Messages will be responded to as time allows. As a general rule, you can expect your direct questions to be answered within 24 hours during week days.

When sending an email, please include your full name so your instructor knows who they are responding to. Often, the email address does not indicate who is sending the message.

Student E-Mail Accounts

NDSCS students are to use an NDSCS email account exclusively to ensure the lines of communication with your instructor and NDSCS are not broken, which often happens with other email providers. You can access your email account by following instructions at www.ndscs.edu/It-Setup. If you need help accessing your NDSCS email, contact the NDSCS IT Service Desk at 800-342-4325 ext 3333 or ndscs.servicedesk@ndscs.edu.

To make your NDSCS email account your preferred email address, log into your CampusConnection account and check the "preferred" box by campus email.

The NDSCS e-mail system provides students with an entire suite of services such as:

- 10 GB storage for email
- Instant messaging through Skype for Business
- Rich calendaring
- Photo sharing
- Multi-browser support
- SMS alerts to mobile phones

Academic Integrity

Integrity is an NDSCS core value and there is an expectation that all students, as members of the college community, adhere to the highest levels of academic integrity.

Dishonesty in class, laboratory, shop work or tests is regarded as a serious offense and is subject to disciplinary action by the instructor and dean of the respective division. For more information, refer to the NDSCS Student Planner or [College Catalog](link) under College Policies and Basic Regulations of Conduct (page 32).

Types of Misconduct

Cheating: Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids n any academic exercise.

Fabrication: Intentionally and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

Facilitating academic dishonesty: Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.

Plagiarism: Intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise.

Disabilities and Special Needs

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the **Student Accessibility Coordinator** (phone 671-2623, or toll-free 1-800-342-4325 ext. 3-2623) as early as possible in the term.

APPENDIX A
ONLINE STUDENT PARTICIPATION AND CONDUCT GUIDELINES

Online courses are based on the premise that students learn best in a community. The instructor plays an important role, but this is a different role than most instructors play in the traditional, face-to-face classroom. While you may see a shift in the way classes work, you'll also notice that some things don't change: the practices of courtesy and respect that apply in the ordinary classroom also apply online, and may actually require more attention in this venue. Here are some guidelines:

1. **Get involved**. In the online environment, it's not enough to show up! Your voice must be heard in order to show your presence. Your comments are needed to add to the information, the shared learning, and the sense of community in each class.

2. **Be persistent**. Remember that for many this is a fairly new environment. Each instructor still sets the rules, and you need to abide by them; however, if you run into any difficulties, don't wait! Send your instructor an email immediately or post in the Discussion Area. Most problems are easily solved, but your instructor and your fellow students need to hear from you before they can help.

3. **Share tips, helps, and questions**. For many, taking online courses is a new experience. There are no dumb questions, and even if you think your solution is obvious, please share it by posting it in the Discussion Area. For every student who asks a question, there are 10 others wanting to know the same thing.

4. **Think before you push the Send button**. Did you say just what you meant? How will the person on the other end read the words? While you can't anticipate all reactions, do read over what you've written before you send it.

5. **Consider the context**. Remember that we can't see the grin on your face when you make a sarcastic comment, we can't see the concern on your face if you only say a couple of words, and we can't read your mind and fill in the gaps if you abbreviate your comments. So: help us "see" you by explaining your ideas fully.

6. **Ask for feedback**. Not sure how your ideas and comments will be taken? Remember there's a person on the other side. If you disagree with what someone has said, practice all your communication skills as you express that disagreement. "Flaming," or flying off the handle and ranting at someone is unacceptable; it is the equivalent of having a tantrum, something most of us wouldn't do in an onsite, face to face classroom.

7. **Act with respect**. Any discriminatory, derogatory or inappropriate comments are unacceptable and subject to the same disciplinary action that they would receive if they occurred in the face to face classroom. If you have concerns about something that has been said, please contact your instructor.

8. **Exercise integrity**. Plagiarism, cheating, and other violations of ethical student behavior are serious actions in a learning community. See Academic Integrity Policy in the course syllabus.

9. **Recognize the consequences**. Consequences of online student behavior that contradicts the NDSCS Academic Integrity policy will be addressed on an individual basis and in accordance with NDSCS Academic Integrity policy. Refer to the NDSCS Student Planner or College Catalog for more information.

*Adapted with permission from Dr. C. A. Keller, San Antonio College