

Revised: Fall 2012  
Fall 2013  
Fall 2014  
Fall 2015  
Fall 2016

# PHI 220 Ethics

## COURSE OUTLINE

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:**

Provides a systematic study of representative ethical systems.  
Lecture 3 hours per week.

Additionally, this class questions basic assumptions on the meaning of self, causality, language, religious disciplines, and beauty.

**Semester Credits: 3 Lecture Hours: 3**

VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
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# PHI 220: Ethics

## Course Outcomes:

### At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Articulate a basic understanding of the ethics of moral living.
- Examine personal and social issues from a philosophical perspective.
- Sketch an overview of the nature of morality using both literature and philosophy.
- Define the major issues in the discussion of morality: good and evil; virtues and values; egoism; the meaning of life; freedom; and self-respect.
- Develop a world view on the issues of sex, love, marriage, abortion, and euthanasia.
- Examine our duty toward animals, the environment and terrorism.

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# PHI 220: Ethics

## Required Materials:

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Blackboard

## Textbook:

Vaughn, Lewis, *Doing Ethics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Norton. ISBN# 978-0-393-91928-8

**The following supplementary materials are available:** None

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### Topical Description:

- What is the Purpose of Morality
  - A. On the Nature and Purpose of Morality
  - B. On the State of Nature
- Good and Evil
  - A. Why is There Evil?
  - B. On the Origin of good and Evil
- Utilitarianism
  - A. Classical Utilitarianism
  - B. A Defense for and Against Utilitarianism
- Deontological Ethics
  - A. The Moral Law
  - B. Does Morality Depend on Religion
- Virtue Ethics
  - A. Virtue Ethics
  - B. Virtue and the Moral Life
- Virtues and Vices
  - A. Jealousy, Malice and Ingratitude
  - B. Moral Cowardice
- Does Life Have meaning?
  - A. Hedonism
  - B. The Good Brahmin
- Freedom, Autonomy and Self-respect
  - A. I Have a Dream
  - B. Servility and Self-respect
- Applied Ethics
  - Sex, Love and Marriage
    - A. Marriage, Love and Procreation
    - B. We Have No Right to Happiness
  - Is Abortion Morally Permissible?
    - A. Why Abortion is Immoral
    - B. A Defense for Abortion
  - Euthanasia
    - A. The Wrongness of Euthanasia
    - B. Active and passive Euthanasia

