

**Course Description****PHI2604 | Critical Thinking and Ethics | 3.00 credits**

This foundation course in philosophy introduces students to fundamental concepts and theories in ethics and includes works from the Western canon. Students will develop critical thinking skills through the study of major philosophical texts, engaging with questions about morality, values, and human conduct. By applying methods of effective reasoning, learners will reflect on various ethical dilemmas and foster a deeper understanding of philosophical inquiry and its relevance to contemporary issues.

**Course Competencies:**

**Competency 1:** The student will demonstrate an understanding of the principles of critical thinking by:

1. Defining key vocabulary terms relating to critical thinking.
2. Identifying the structure of arguments.
3. Applying various logical techniques to evaluate ethical issues, such as those found in professional, medical, or environmental ethics.
4. Identifying various examples of logical fallacies

**Competency 2:** The student will demonstrate an understanding of ethics by:

1. Defining key vocabulary terms relating to ethics.
2. Identifying and explaining issues in metaethics such as objectivism, relativism or skepticism.
3. Identifying and explaining issues in normative ethics such as Kantianism, utilitarianism, or hedonism.
4. Identifying and explaining issues in applied ethics such as the various positions on abortion, affirmative action, or animal rights.
5. Describing their values and ethical standards regarding personal, civic, and social responsibility.
6. Describing different theoretical frameworks for resolving ethical dilemmas.

**Competency 3:** The student will apply critical thinking to the study of ethics by:

1. Examining and evaluating arguments for and against various ethical issues that arise in society, such as those found in professional medical ethics, or environmental ethics.
2. Examining and evaluating the arguments for and against the positions and theories discussed.
4. Applying their values and ethical standards to the issues discussed and defending these views with arguments.

**Competency 4:** The student will demonstrate knowledge of Critical Thinking/Ethics by:

1. Employing effective use of philosophical concepts in college-level writing.
2. Applying college-level writing in the analysis of philosophical problems and issues.
3. Demonstrating the ability to articulate a coherent philosophical position in college-level writing.

**Competency 5:** The student will critically examine the Western Canon theories of ethics, employing effective reasoning to reflect on their values, ethical standards, and the ethical permissibility of topics such as euthanasia, animal rights, and environmental ethics by:

1. Investigating the influence of Western Canon theories of ethics on the development and application of ethical standards in addressing issues related to euthanasia, animal rights, and environmental ethics
2. Considering the ethical implications of Western Canon theories in addressing environmental ethics and the moral obligations towards the environment.
3. Examining the ethical dimensions of Western Canon theories in relation to the permissibility of actions such as euthanasia and the ethical treatment of animals.

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning.
- Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society.
- Describe how natural systems function and recognize the impact of humans on the environment.