

South Central College

# PHIL 100 Ethics in Society

## Common Course Outline

### Course Information

**Description** This course studies the foundations for moral beliefs and values and the part they play in practical ethical judgments. After providing a general introduction to moral concepts and theories, the course covers a wide range of social problems through an analysis of power, privilege, and justice. The class is organized by overarching themes of race, social class, gender, and global concerns and addresses issues involving criminal justice, economic inequality, gender differences, and sexuality. (Prerequisite: Must have a score of 78 or higher on the Reading Comprehension portion of the Accuplacer test or completion of READ 0090) (MNTC Goal Areas 7, 9)

**Total Credits** 3

**Total Hours** 48

### Types of Instruction

Instruction Type	Credits/Hours
Lecture	3 / 48

### Pre/Corequisites

### **Learning Objectives**

Describe the Categorical Imperative and Kant's criteria for moral permissibility.  
Contrast Kant's view of duty-based ethics with consequentialist moral theories.  
Apply Deontology to actual and theoretical ethical dilemmas.

## **4. Explain and employ the moral theory of Utilitarianism.**

### **Learning Objectives**

Describe the Principle of Utility, including the difference between Bentham and Mill's understanding of the concept.

Distinguish between Act and Rule Utilitarianism and identify the implications of each approach.

Contrast Utilitarianism with duty- and rights-based approaches to ethics.

Apply Utilitarianism to actual and theoretical ethical dilemmas.

## **5. Explain and employ the moral theory of Virtue Ethics.**

### **Learning Objectives**

Describe the main features of Virtue Ethics (virtues, vices, habituation, the Golden Mean).

Contrast Aristotle's character-based approach to ethics with consequentialist and duty-based theories.

Apply Virtue Ethics to actual and theoretical ethical dilemmas.

## **6. Evaluate the impact of privilege and disadvantage in contemporary culture.**

### **Learning Objectives**

Define the concepts of privilege and disadvantage.

Identify ways in which they (students) experience privilege and/or disadvantage.

Explain how privilege and disadvantage violate the principle of justice.

Evaluate the degree to which society has an obligation to compensate for disadvantage.

## **7. Analyze the concept of race and its relevance to ethical issues in contemporary society.**

### **Learning Objectives**

Examine the concept of "race" from biological and sociological perspectives.

Identify ways in which racial privilege impacts American society.

Describe the significance of race in the criminal justice system.

Evaluate different proposals for addressing racial disparities.

## **8.**

