

Clarendon College
Liberal Arts Division
History Department

Introduction to Ethics
2306.901/921
Spring 2026

Course Syllabus

Meeting Time: M,W,F 10:00 am – 10:55 am

Meeting Place: Admin 202

Instructor: Dr. Ken McIntosh

Office: ADMN 108

Email: ken.mcintosh@clarendoncollege.edu

I will make every effort to reply to your email message requests within 24 hours.

Office Hours: MWF 7:00 – 9:00 am; T/TH 7:30 am - 9:30 am

Course Begins: 10:00 am, Wednesday, January 21.

Course Ends: 12:00 noon, Wednesday, May 6

Course Description: Life examples designed to introduce the major moral concepts and theories in philosophy such as Cultural Relativism, Social Contract Theory, Utilitarianism, Kantian Ethics, the Feminist Ethics, and Virtue Ethics.

Statement of Purpose: This course partially satisfies the requirements for the state of Texas core curriculum requirements, and the requirements for the Associate Degree at Clarendon College.

Required Text: *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, James Rachels and Stuart Rachels, McGraw-Hill Education, New York 9th Edition, 2019. ISBN: 978-1-260-09167-0. A Textbook will be provided for each student by the professor.

Methods of Instruction: This course centers upon class lecture, discussion, and case studies. Discussion is essential for the exchange of ideas and a greater understanding of the content. Therefore, questions will be asked in order to make a more complete learning environment. It is essential for the student to read the class assignments before the class. Assigned readings, TV shows and movies may also be a part of the instructional process.

Core Objectives: In accordance with recommendations from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, all American History courses at Clarendon College will address the following core objectives:

- Critical Thinking Skills - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- Communication Skills - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- Personal Responsibility - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making
- Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global

Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Be able to analyze decisions and actions based on a spectrum of Philosophical moral imperatives. Such analysis will be demonstrated by the completion of a weekly case study.
2. Demonstrate acceptable knowledge of the various areas of study covered in the textbook via three exams.

Grading Policies:

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Your grade for this course will come from a variety of sources:

EXAM I	100 points	20% of grade
EXAM II	100 points	20% of grade
FINAL EXAM	100 points	20% of grade
Case Study	100 points	20% of grade
Quizzes	100 points	20% of grade

TOTAL POINTS FOR THE SEMESTER = 500 PTS.

A = 500 – 450 pts
B = 449 – 400 pts
C = 399 – 350 pts
D = 349 – 300 pts
F = 299 -- 0

Attendance/Class Participation/Makeup Work:

- Attendance will be recorded each class period. Excused absences only occur by written message from a coach or from the Academic Dean.
- Case Studies are due on Fridays. Typed, double-spaced, Font 12, minimum ½ page.
- The Final Exam MUST be taken as scheduled. There is no Make-Up of the Final Exam.
- **This is a F2F class. There is a course shell on LMS. Therefore, the last exam must be taken in class as scheduled.**

Makeups and Paper Deadlines

If a quiz or case study deadline is missed, it is up to the student to contact the instructor with a reason for missing and a proposed day/time for a make-up. **There is no make-up for the Final Exam. Exam III must be taken as scheduled.** Case studies submitted after the Deadline will receive a grade less than earned.

Withdrawal

If you decide that you are unable to complete this course or that it will be impossible to complete the course with a passing grade, you may drop the course and receive a “W” instead of a grade. Withdrawal from a course is a formal procedure that the student must initiate. If you do not go through the withdrawal procedure, you will receive whatever grade you earn on your transcript. Keep in mind that students are only allowed to drop the same course twice before he or she will be charged triple tuition for taking the class a third time or more. Furthermore, students in Texas may only drop a total of six courses throughout their entire undergraduate career. No drops allowed after 6 dropped courses no matter where you attend college in Texas. **The Withdrawal deadline for Spring 2026 is April 9.**

Student Services

As a Clarendon College student you should become familiar with the services that are available to you. These include academic advising and academic support via the Learning Center, the College Library, Mental Health services, support for At-Risk students, and disability support services. Students requiring accommodations for the course are responsible for securing notification to professors about reasonable accommodations.

Accommodation Statement

REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, any student who feels that he or she may need any special assistance or accommodation because of an impairment or disabling condition should contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services at 806-874-4837 or janean.reish@clarendoncollege.edu or visit the Clarendon campus at Clarendon College. It is the policy of Clarendon College to provide reasonable accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services.

Nondiscrimination Policy

Clarendon College, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status. It is the policy of Clarendon College not to discriminate based on gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran’s status, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation. Harassment of a student in class, i.e., a pattern of behavior directed against a particular student with the intent of humiliating or intimidating that student will not be tolerated. The mere expression of one’s ideas is not harassment and is fully protected by academic freedom, but personal harassment of individual students is not permitted.

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

<http://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Student%20Services/StudentRightsResponsibilities.pdf>

Academic Integrity Policy:

Clarendon College is committed to a philosophy of honest and academic integrity. It is the responsibility of all members of the Clarendon College community to maintain academic integrity at the College by refusing to participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will be regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense.

From the Policy Manual: *Scholastic penalties - The assignment of a failing grade on an assignment or examination or in a course by an instructor based on scholastic dishonesty; including cheating, collusion, and plagiarism; committed by a student. The instructor shall submit a written report of the incident and of the planned action to the instructor's dean.*

Grievance/Appeals

If you have a dispute concerning your grade or policies in this class, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to discuss the matter. Should things remain unresolved, please follow the procedures described in the Clarendon College Student Handbook or College Policy Manual.

Extra Credit Opportunity

You have one extra credit opportunity this Spring semester. It equals 10 points added to your quiz points. You must arrange a 10 minute meeting with me by the Census date, February 4. Email me to tell me when you are available and I will either set up a Zoom meeting or a meeting in my office. Again, my email is ken.mcintosh@clarendoncollege.edu

CLASSROOM DECORUM

- 1) Turn off cell phones and beepers during class. Your phone goes off during class and you lose 5 pts; my phone goes off during class and you receive 5 extra credit points.
- 2) Grant respect to each other and to the instructor and respect shall be shown to you.
- 3) No unrelated reading/study during class.
- 4) Absolutely no form of any communication device (cell phone, PDA, laptop, carrier pigeon, or any other imaginable device) will be allowed during exams. Seeing a student using a device during the exam will result in the instructor removing the exam from the student, ask the student to leave the room and assign a grade of zero to the material.
- 5) No material other than the exam and writing utensil will be allowed on the student's desk during an exam unless approved by the instructor.
- 6) No hats, caps, or head coverings of any kind will be allowed at any time during a testing period. This includes all students, male and female. If a head covering of any kind is worn during the testing period, the student will be asked to remove the object. If the student refuses to remove the covering or cannot remove the covering and return to the class and finish the exam during the scheduled time, a grade of zero will be assigned to the material.
- 7) Please keep restroom breaks and other interruptions to a bare minimum.
- 8) Please notice the emergency evacuation map and be cognizant of what steps to take in case of emergency (fire, tornado, etc.).
- 9) No Sleeping in class. Falling asleep results in special attention from the professor.
- 10) Be on time. 1 grace tardy, then afterwards locked out of class each time.

Tentative Course Schedule

Orientation

UNIT I – What is morality? Cultural Relativism, Subjectivism, & Religion

Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 4

EXAM I February 25

UNIT II – Egoism, Social Contract Theory, Utilitarianism

Chapters 5, 6,7, & 8

EXAM II April 8

UNIT III – Absolute Morals, Kant, Feminist Ethics, Virtue Ethics, & Rachel's Theory

Chapters 9, 10, 11,12 & 13

EXAM III TBA

- Quizzes weekly at beginning of class on Wednesdays (start 1/28)
- Case Study Discussions due at beginning of class on Fridays (start 1/30)