American Public University System

American Military University | American Public University

STEM270

Course Summary

Course : STEM270 **Title :** Thinking and Acting Ethically
Length of Course : 8 **Faculty :**
Prerequisites : N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

Description

Course Description:

This course offers the students an opportunity to delve into ethics from a multitude of approaches. Each and every day an individual's ethics are challenged, and this course will do its best to provide you with a foundation on which the student can develop their own set of ethics. The course will cover the various ethical frameworks, review ethical challenges one is bound to encounter in their daily life, and look back at historical situations that have been studied extensively so that one can see how other individuals have reacted in their own situations.

Course Scope:

This course offers the students an opportunity to delve into ethics from a multitude of approaches. Each and every day an individual's ethics are challenged, and this course will do its best to provide you with a foundation on which the student can develop their own set of ethics. The course will cover the various ethical frameworks, review ethical challenges one is bound to encounter in their daily life, and look back at historical situations that have been studied extensively so that one can see how other individuals have reacted in their own situations.

Objectives

CO 1: Develop a fundamental understanding of basic ethical theories and applying proper ethical reasoning.

CO 2: Adopt a personal moral compass for ethical decision making on and off the job

CO 3: Evaluate the possible consequences of poorly reasoned actions

CO 4: Examine differences in actions based on the status of stakeholders

CO 5: Assess the outcomes of various actions for relevant stakeholders

CO 6: Understand different levels of responsibility relevancy for various stakeholders

Outline
Week 1: Exposure to Ethical Theories

LO 1: Compare three primary categories of ethical theory

LO 2: Evaluate positives and negatives of consequential, non-consequential and virtue theories Required

Readings

Green, Hank. "Metaethics: Crash Course Philosophy #32." *CrashCourse* 25 Oct, 2016.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOoffXFpAlU&list=PLa_ZSYFNmJvvtaPCcfY-xQljsJDyhMtWe

Green, Hank. "Kant & Categorical Imperatives: Crash Course Philosophy # 35." *CrashCourse* 16 Nov, 2016
.https://wm/.youtube.com/wfitch?v=8bIvs6JoEDw&list=PLa_ZSYFNmJvvtaPCcfY-
xQljsJDyhMtWe&index=4

Green, Hank. "Utilitarianism: Crash Course Philosophy # 36." *CrashCourse* 21 Nov, 2016.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-a739VjqdSI&list=pLa_ZSYFNmJvvtaPCcfY-xQljsJDyhMtWe&index=5

Green, Hank. "Aristotle & Virtue Theory: Crash Course Philosophy # 38." *CrashCourse* 5 Dec, 2016.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrvtOWEXDIQ&list=PLa_ZsYFNmJvvtaPCcfY-xQljsJDyhMtWe&index=7

Mastin, L. "Consequentialism" *Philosophy Basics* January, 2009.
https://www.philosophybasics.com/branch_consequentialism.html

Mastin, L. "Deontology" *Philosophy Basics* January, 2009.
https://www.philosophybasics.com/branch_deontology.html

Mastin, L. "Utilitarianism" *Philosophy Basics* January, 2009.
https://www.philosophybasics.com/branch_utilitarianism.html

Mastin, L. "Virtue Ethics" *Philosophy Basics* January, 2009.
https://www.philosophybasics.com/branch_virtue_ethics.html

Assignments

Week 1 Introduction Discussion, post due Sunday

Week 1 Discussion, initial post due Wednesday and peer responses due Sunday

Week 2: Exploring Codes of Ethics

Learning Outcomes

LO 1: Interpret various ethical theories as applied to bioethics.

LO 2: Critique the applicability of various theories to unique situations.

LO 3: Assess the intentions behind various published codes of ethics.

Required Readings

"ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct" Association for Computing Machinery.
https://www.acm. o rg/code-of-ethi cs

Warcholinski, Matt. "Benefits of a Code of Ethics" https://brainhub.eu/blog/benefits-of-code-of-ethics

American Geophysical Union - Statement of Ethics https://www.agu.org/-/media/Files/AGU-Scientific-Integrity-and-Professional-Ethics-Policy.pdf?la=en&hash=921CF9778018F80E95DC0D6DCFB2C2E3D7E1C81F

Facebook's Code of Conduct https://investor.fb.com/corporate-governance/code-of-conduct/default.aspx

Google's Code of Conduct https://abc.xyz/investor/other/google-code-of-conduct/

IEEE (world's largest technical professional organization for the advancement of technology) Code of Ethics https://www.ieee.org/about/corporate/governance/p7-8.html

Microsoft's code of Conduct https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/legal/compliance/sbc/download

NASA Ethics Rules https://www.nasa.gov/offices/ogc/general_law/ethicsrules.html

Society of Toxicology - Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest https://www.toxicology.org/about/vp/code-of-ethics.asp

Tenbrunsel, Ann & Messick, David "Ethical Fading: The Role of Self-Deception in Unethical Behavior" https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/ethical-fading-role-self-deception-unethical/docview/821817963/se-2?accountid=8289

Assignments

Week 2 Discussion, initial post due Wednesday and peer responses due Sunday

Week 2 Code of Ethics worksheet

Optional Materials

https://i-sight.com/resources/18-of-the-best-code-of-conduct-examples/

https://www.ethics.org/resources/free-toolkit/code-of-conduct/

Week 3: Building a moral compass - Ethics in action

Learning Outcomes

LO 1: Synthesize material covered so far to build a personal moral compass.

LO 2: Analyze the applicability of that moral compass to different tech-related situations.

Required Readings
Green, Hank. "Diving Command Theory: Crash Course Philosophy # 33." *CrashCourse* 31 Oct, 2016. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRHBwxC8b8I&list=PLa_zSYFNmJvvtaPCcfY-xQljsJDyhMtWe&index=2

Green, Hank. "Natural Law Theory: Crash Course Philosophy # 34." *CrashCourse* 7 Nov, 2016. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_UfYY7aWKo&list=PLa_ZSYFNmJvvtaPCcfY-xQljsJDyhMtWe&index=3

Green, Hank. "Contractarianism: Crash Course Philosophy # 34." *CrashCourse* 28 Nov, 2016.https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Co6pNvd9mc&list=PLa_ZSYFNmJvvtaPCcfY-xQljsJ DyhMtWe&i ndex=6

Rad, Roya R. "How to fine-tune your moral compass" HuffPost 15 Oct, 2011. https://www.huffpost.com/entry/finding-your-moral-compass_b_1009290
"A Framework for Ethical Decision Making" Markkula Center for Applied Ethics - Santa Clara university. https://www.scu.edu/ethics/ethics-resources/ethical-decision-making/a-framework-for-ethical-decision-making/

Assignments

Week 3 Discussion, initial post due Wednesday and peer responses due Sunday

Optional Materials

"Should you kill the fatman" *Philosophy Experiments.*
https://www.philosophyexperiments.com/fatman/Default.aspx

"Philosophy Health Check" *Philosophy Experiments*
http://www.philosophyexperiments.com/health/Default.aspx

Week 4: Whistle Blowing - the price of truth

Learning Outcomes

LO 1: Interpret the outcomes of various whistleblower situations

LO 2: Identify relevant stakeholders and possible consequences of poorly reasoned actions LO

3: Recommend suitable actions to bring about morally justifiable outcomes Required Readings

Matthews, Kayla. "Why Tech Needs Whistleblowers" Hackernoon 14 June, 2018.
https://hackernoon.com/why-tech-needs-whistleblowers-844423a8fb5a

Mintz, Steven. "Is Whistle-Blowing and Ethical Act Practice"? Ethics Sage 24 Mar, 2015.
https://www.ethicssage.com/2015/03/is-whistle-blowing-an-ethical-act-practice.html

Pope, Kelly Richmond. "How Whistle Blowers Shape History." TED April 2017.
https://www.ted.com/talks/kelly_richmond_pope_how_whistle_blowers_shape_history

"The Ethics of Whistle-Blowing (Edward Snowden case)" PBS: Religion and Ethics Newsweekly
https://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethi cs/2014/02/14/february-14-2014-ethics-of-whistle-blowing/22072/

"The Whistleblower's Dilemma" Do the Risks Outweigh the Benefits" Knowledge@Wharton 5 Nov, 2019.
https://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/article/whistleblowers-in-business/

"A Framework for Making Ethical Decisions" Brown University. https://www.brown.edu/academics/science-and-technology-studies/framework-making-ethical-decisions

Assignments

Week 4 Discussion, initial post due Wednesday and peer responses due Sunday

Week 4 Case Study

Week 5: Politicizing social media

Learning Outcomes

LO 1: Interpret the outcomes of various social media or spying situations.

LO 2: Identify relevant stakeholders and possible consequences of poorly reasoned actions. LO 3:

Recommend suitable actions to bring about morally justifiable outcomes.

Required Readings

Jay Van Bevel "Do politics make us irrational?"
https://www.ted.com/talks/jay_van_bavel_do_politics_make_us_irrational/transcript

Zeynep Tufekci, "We're building a dystopia just to make people click on ads."
https://www.ted.com/talks/zeynep_tufekci_we_re_building_a_dystopia_just_to_make_people_click_on_ads

Bonney, Victoria. "How Social Media is Shaping Out Political Future" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Kd99IIWJUw

"Privacy, Technology, and School Shootings: An Ethics Case Study" Markkula Center for Applied Ethics https://www.scu.edu/ethics/privacy/case-study-on-online-privacy/

Karkkula Center for Applied Ethics "Internet Ethics" https://www.scu.edu/ethics/focus-areas/internet-ethics/

Dorbin, Arthur. "Five steps to better ethical decision making" Psychology Today 13 Jul, 2012.
https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/am-i-right/201207/five-steps-better-ethical-decision-making

Assignments

Week 5 Discussion, initial post due Wednesday and peer responses due Sunday

Week 6: Alexa and Siri - are you being spied on?

Learning Outcomes

LO 1: Interpret the outcomes of various social media or spying situations.

LO 2: Identify relevant stakeholders and possible consequences of poorly reasoned actions. LO 3:

Recommend suitable actions to bring about morally justifiable outcomes

Required Readings

Coats, Kenneth. "The future of policing using pre-crime technology"
https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2018/08/14/the-future-of-policing-using-pre-crime-technology/#844e8d364a11

Heilweil, Rebecca. "Why algorithms can be racist and sexist." Vox-Recode 18 Feb, 2020.
https://www.vox.com/recode/2020/2/18/21121286/algorithms-bias-discrimination-facial-recognition-transparency

Farahany, Nita. "When technology can read minds, how will we protect privacy?" TED
https://www.ted.com/talks/nita_farahany_when_technology_can_read_minds_how_will_we_protect_our_privacy

Macnish, Kevin "Surveillance Ethics" https://www.iep.utm.edu/surv-eth/

Assignments

Week 6 Discussion, initial post due Wednesday and peer responses due Sunday Week 6 Case Study

Week 7: Hacking for the greater good

Learning Outcomes

LO 1: Interpret the outcomes of various hacking situations.

LO 2: Identify relevant stakeholders and possible consequences of poorly reasoned actions. LO 3:

Recommend suitable actions to bring about morally justifiable outcomes.

Required Readings
Lin, Patrick. "Ethics of Hacking Back: Six Arguments from Armed Conflict to Zombies"
http://ethics.calpoly.edu/hackingback.pdf

Elazari, Keren. "Hackers: The Internet's Immune System" TED talks https://www.ted.com/talks/keren elazari hackers the internet s immune system

Assignments

Week 7 Discussion, initial post due Wednesday and peer responses due Sunday

Week 8: Neoevolution: The Ethics of Genetic Engineering

Learning Outcomes

LO 1: Interpret the outcomes of various hacking or privacy situation.

LO 2: Identify relevant stakeholders and possible consequences of poorly reasoned actions. LO 3:

Recommend suitable actions to bring about morally justifiable outcomes.

Required Readings

Begley, S "He took a crash course in bioethics. Then he created CRISPR babies"

https://www.statnews.com/2018/11/27/crispr-babies-creator-soaked-up-bioethics/

Hurlbut, J.B., Saha, K., & Jasanoff, S "CRISPR democracy: Gene editing and the need for inclusive

deliberation" https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/crispr-democracy-gene-editing-need-

inclusive/docview/1774763863/se-2?accountid=8289

Tenbrunsel, Ann & Messick, David "Ethical Fading: The Role of Self-Deception in Unethical Behavior" https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/ethical-fading-role-self-deception-unethical/docview/821817963/se-2?accountid=8289

Assignments

Week 8 Discussion, initial post due Wednesday and peer responses due Sunday

Week 8 Case Study

Evaluation

8 Discussions worth 40% of the course grade

1 Code of Ethics Worksheet worth 15% of the course grade

Name	Grade %
Assignments	60.00 %

Code of Ethics Worksheet 15.00%
Case Study #1 15.00%
Case Study #2 15.00%
Case Study #3 15.00%
Discussions 40.00 %

Welcome Discussion	4.44	%
Week 1 Discussion	4.44	%
Week 2 Discussion	4.44	%
Week 3 Discussion	4.44	%
Week 4 Discussion	4.44	%
Week 5 Discussion	4.44	%
Week 6 Discussion	4.44	%
Week 7 Discussion	4.44	%
Week 8 Discussion	4.44	%

Materials

Book Title: Various resources from Trefry Library and/or the Open Web are used. Links provided inside the classroom.

Author:

Publication Info:

ISBN: D2L Note

All materials required for this course are provided inside the course in the electronic reserves.

Course Guidelines

Late Assignments

- Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. The due date for each assignment is listed under each Assignment.
- Generally speaking, late work may result in a deduction up to 15% of the grade for each day late, not to exceed 5 days.
- As a working adult I know your time is limited and often out of your control. Faculty may be more flexible if they know ahead of time of any potential late assignments.

University Policies

Student Handbook

- Drop/Withdrawal policy

- Extension Requests

- Academic Probation

- Appeals

- Disability Accommodations

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