

# RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

## PHIL – 106 CURRENT MORAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

### I. Basic Course Information

- A. Course Number and Title: PHIL 106- Current Moral & Social Issues
- B. New or Modified Course: Modified
- C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall Year: 2021
- D. Effective Term: Fall 2022**
- E. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Science, Social Work, & Education
- F. Semester Credit Hours: 3
- G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3                      Lecture: 3  
   Laboratory: 0  
   Out of class student work per week: 6
- H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: **Placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I with ENGL 070 English Composition I Workshop, or higher.**
- I. Laboratory Fees: None
- J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval:  
Chair: Isabel Gutierrez                      [Isabel.Gutierrez@raritanval.edu](mailto:Isabel.Gutierrez@raritanval.edu)  
Divisional Dean: Dr. Patrice Marks      Patrice.Marks@raritanval.edu

### II. Catalog Description

**Placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I with ENGL 070 English Composition I Workshop, or higher.** This course will focus on the practical application of moral theory, which may be especially helpful for non-majors and those interested in the study of ethics. The course will explore ethical questions around issues such as (including but not limited to) abortion, capital punishment, environmental issues, euthanasia, governance, social media, terrorism, warfare, and wealth distribution.

### **III. Statement of Course Need**

- A. This course provides a basic introduction to applied ethics, which is foundational to many disciplines, programs of study, and aspects of life.
- B. There is no lab component.
- C. This course generally transfers as a
  - 1. Humanities Gen-ed
  - 2. Humanities elective
  - 3. Free elective.

### **IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum**

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in the Humanities.
- C. This course satisfies the humanities elective for degree programs.
- D. This course satisfies the General Education ethical reasoning and action requirement.

To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, [www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org); b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

### **V. Outline of Course Content**

- A. The nature of philosophical ethics
  - 1. Philosophical argumentation
  - 2. Moral Terms
  - 3. Moral Judgments
- B. Ethical Theories
  - 1. Egoism
  - 2. Subjectivism
  - 3. Cultural Relativism
  - 4. Virtue Ethics
  - 5. Deontology
  - 6. Consequentialism
- C. Current issues (including but not limited to):
  - 1. Abortion
  - 2. Capital Punishment
  - 3. Climate Change & Environmental Issues
  - 4. Digital Media, Internet, & Social Media
  - 5. Distributive Justice
  - 6. Euthanasia
  - 7. Incarceration & Policing
  - 8. Violence, War, & Terrorism

### **VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes**

**A. General Education Learning Outcomes:**

**At the completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. effectively communicate an ethical judgment in both speech and writing (GE-1)
2. analyze works in the field of ethics (GE-6)
3. evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different perspectives on an ethical issue or a situation (GE-ERA)

**B. Course Learning Outcomes:**

**At the completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. compare and contrast different ethical theories
2. apply ethical theories in order to make ethical judgments (GE-ERA)
3. critically evaluate arguments from experts in the field, including guest speakers (GE-6)

**C. Assessment Instruments**

1. case studies
2. essays
3. quizzes
4. reader-response papers
5. reflections
6. research papers
7. tests

**VII. Grade Determinants**

- A. case studies
- B. class participations
- C. essays
- D. presentations
- E. projects
- F. quizzes
- G. reflections
- H. research papers
- I. tests

Given the goals and outcomes described above, LIST the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. lecture
- B. discussion
- C. film & media

- D. small-group work
- E. student oral presentations

### **VIII. Texts and Materials**

Sample texts include:

- A. Mackinnon, Catherine. *Ethics & Contemporary Issues*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition (New York: Cengage, 2017).
- B. Rachels, James. *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition (NY: McGraw-Hill, 2018).
- C. Rachels, James. *The Right Thing to Do*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition (NY: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2019).

### **IX. Resources**

- A. Classroom
- B. Academic Support Center
- C. Testing Center
- D. Library
- E. Internet Access

### **X. Honors Options [if relevant]**

N/A