

**JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**State University of New York**

---

**INSTITUTIONAL COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Title:** Contemporary Moral Problems

**Course Abbreviation and Number:** PHL 2630

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Course Type:** Lecture

**Course Description:** Students will analyze and acquire an understanding of contemporary moral issues and problems. Students will learn how moral problems are approached differently by diverse ethical perspectives such as utilitarianism and deontological theorists. Students will develop a coherent moral point of view which they will use to approach issues such as privacy, abortion, suicide, euthanasia, war, civil disobedience, and pornography.

Prerequisite: ENG 1530.

---

**General Education Requirements Met**

**SUNY**  
Diversity

**JCC**  
Diversity  
Global Perspectives

---

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

1. Distinguish a variety of ethical perspectives including (but not limited to) utilitarianism, pragmatism, etc.
  2. Demonstrate awareness of contemporary moral issues of global significance and the impact of individual and collective decision on life around the world.
  3. Describe the historical and contemporary societal factors that shape the development of diverse individual and group identities, including but not limited to race, class and gender. [SUNY Gen Ed & JCC Gen Ed – Diversity]
  4. Analyze the role that social structures and systems play in the creation and perpetuation of power, privilege, oppression, and opportunity. [SUNY Gen Ed & JCC Gen Ed – Diversity]
  5. Demonstrate an understanding of how the principles of rights, access, equity, and autonomy apply to social justice action, past, current, or future. [SUNY Gen Ed & JCC Gen Ed – Diversity]
  6. Demonstrate awareness of global issues and the impact of individual and collective decisions on life around the world. [JCC Gen Ed – Global Perspectives]
- 

**Topics Covered:**

- Ethics and Moral Reasoning
  - Ethics and Emotion
  - Morality and Action
  - Morality and Character
  - Moral Rights and Paternalism
  - Persons and dignity
  - Pornography and Sexual Morality
  - Suicide, Euthanasia, and Abortion
  - Technology and War
  - Problems of the Environment
  - Privacy
  - Punishment
- 

**Information for Students**

- Expectations of Students
  - [Civility Statement](#)
  - [Student Responsibility Statement](#)
  - [Academic Integrity Statement](#)
- [Accessibility Services](#)  
Students who require accommodations to complete the requirements and expectations of this course because of a disability must make their accommodation requests to the Accessibility Services Coordinator.
- [Get Help: JCC & Community Resources](#)
- [Emergency Closing Procedures](#)
- Course grade is determined by the instructor based on a combination of factors, including but not limited to, homework, quizzes, exams, projects, and participation. Final course grade can be translated into a grade point value according to the following:

A=4.0	B+=3.5	B=3	C+=2.5	C=2	D+=1.5	D=1	F=0
-------	--------	-----	--------	-----	--------	-----	-----

- Veterans and active duty military personnel with special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill requirements, VA appointments) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these to the instructor.
- 

**Effective Date:** Fall 2023