# "WBUlogo"

WBU Online

School of Christian Studies

# UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused and distinctively Christian environment for professional success and service to God and humankind.

# COURSE NUMBER & NAME:

PHIL 4319 VC01

# **TERM**:

Spring 2 2021

# **INSTRUCTOR**:

J. Jeffrey Tillman,

# **CONTACT INFORMATION**:

Office phone: 940-448-0845

WBU Email: james.tillman@wayland.wbu.edu

# **OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING & LOCATION**:

M/T/W/TH 3-6PM CST

# **COURSE MEETING TIME & LOCATION**:

Online Course:

# **CATALOG DESCRIPTION**:

*Introduction to the classical and biblical theories of ethics with their application to moral and social problems.*

# PREREQUISITE: RLGN 1301 and RLGN 1302

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL: Russ Shafer-Landau, *The Fundamentals of Ethics, Oxford, 2010, ISBN:978-0-19-532685-7*

THIS TEXT IS PROVIDED AS AN AUTOMATIC E-TEXT AVAILABLE THROUGH THE BLACKBOARD PAGE FOR THE COURSE.

# **COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES**:

1. List and define major theories of ethics.
2. Discuss the various theorists and authors in the classic ethics areas.
3. Integrate the theories of ethics into every day, professional and personal living
4. Examine various case studies and relate which ethics theories and methodologies are included.
5. Distinguish between morality and ethics.
6. Discuss the concept of social responsibility and discuss the role of ethics within that context.
7. Outline the steps in decision making and describe the steps used.

# ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 3 or more weeks of an 11 week term, may receive an F for that course. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress for students with excessive non-participation. Any student who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given term is considered a "no-show" and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record. To be counted as actively participating, it is not sufficient to log in and view the course. The student must be submitting work as described in the course syllabus.

# **STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**:

Wayland Baptist University observes a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Per university policy as described in the academic catalog, all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and second offenses will result in suspension from the university.

# **DISABILITY STATEMENT**:

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291-3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

# **COURSE REQUIREMENTS and GRADING CRITERIA**:

All assignments, unless otherwise stated, are due on the Saturday of the week they are assigned at 11.59 P.M. C.S.T. The major exception is the last week, when assignments are due by 11:59 PM CST Wednesday of that week.

Feedback: All assignments will be completed/uploaded through Blackboard. Feedback on assignments will be provided through the same platform. To access feedback on any assignment, click on the grade in the grade book and continue following the screens, clicking on the underlined grade till you find feedback entered into a feedback field or a file I have uploaded with comments provided.

Quizzes: There will be 8 quizzes over the course of the term. Each will be over the assigned reading for that week. They will each be worth 25 points, and will consist of around 10 questions. These quizzes are non-proctored, and will be available on Blackboard, but there will be a 30 minute time limit on the quiz. The quizzes will be available on Monday of the week they are due, and then close by 11:59 PM on Saturday of the week they are due. I will reopen the quizzes only under exceptional circumstances.

Chapter Question Blogs: Each week has a dedicated blog on Blackboard. For each week there are a series of discussion questions. An assignment list will be posted in the Announcements during the first week indicating which students should answer which two questions. Each question should have an answer of at least 300 words, but many questions will require more words for complete credit, and may require follow up submissions in response to comments that I make on the blog. The text of the question being answered should appear before the answer. These answers/responses should be posted by the Wednesday of each week at 6 PM C.S.T. By Saturday at 11:59 P.M. C.S.T. each student should submit at least a 100 word response to another student’s response. (To view other students' posts, click on the small arrow under you name when viewing the blog page.  This will produce a drop down menu listing students who have posted.) These should be critical comments regarding the other student’s success or failure in addressing the assigned question. These responses should be posted to the other student’s blog as well as your own blog. (See this link for an example of how to post the response to the blog: [copyandpaste example](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/PHIL4319/Exampleofcutand%20paste.htm).) The posts and the responses should reflect an insightful reading and understanding of the book material. Each group of posts and responses is worth 20 points. The blogs will be available on Monday of the week they are due, and then close by 11:59 PM on Saturday of the week they are due. I will reopen the blogs only under exceptional circumstances.

Blogs on My Comments on Your Weekly Chapter Blogs: There are 7 of the blogs which involve each student posting a reaction to my comments on his/her blogs for the previous week. The student should begin with a summary of what my statement is that he/she is responding to. These are due the week after the respective blog is due, and therefore there is no blog of this type for the reading for the last week. Each blog is worth five points.

Essay—First Draft: Read the story section of the article by Anita Catlin at [Jehovah’s Witness Case](http://wbuwf.com/online/Courses/PHIL4319/Jehovah's%20Witness%20case.pdf).

In terms of the event described in this article consider the question of whether the hospital did the ethically appropriate thing in administering the blood transfusion. In your answer, be sure to do the following: (The following is given as a guide. I’m looking for a flowing analysis; not one that merely and routinely answers the questions below.)

1. Begin with a paragraph introducing the problem and establishing what you plan on doing in the rest of the essay.
2. Explain how a utilitarian would answer the question.
3. Define utilitarianism-both act-utilitarianism and rule based utilitarianism. Note the importance and distinction between individual utility and social utility.
4. Construct a utilitarian argument as applied to the case that supports the hospital. (This will likely require an argument as to why emphasis upon saving physical life (as opposed to spiritual life) best serves not only individual utility but social utility.
5. Construct another utilitarian argument as applied to the case that supports the parents. (This will require an argument indicating how an emphasis on preserving spiritual life/values preserves social utility.)
6. Choose one of the arguments as superior and explain why it is superior. (This needs to be carefully argued and reasoned. Try to avoid choosing in terms of unstated biases.)
7. Explain how a duty theorist (Kant and Ross are examples) would answer the question.
8. Define duty theory
9. Construct one argument for duty theory as applied to the case that supports the hospital. (Emphasize universalizability and the principle of humanity)
10. Construct another argument for duty theory as applied to the case that supports the parents. (Emphasize duties that are universalizable and involve the principle of humanity)
11. Choose one of the arguments as superior and explain why it is superior. (This needs to be carefully argued and reasoned. Try to avoid choosing in terms of unstated biases.)
12. Describe how a social contract theory would approach the case question.
13. Define social contract theory.
14. Give one argument for social contract theory as applied to the case that supports the hospital. (From the standpoint of the Constitution (as a social contract) or an implied social contract involved in the importance of deliver of public health to a society)
15. Give one argument for social contract theory as applied to the case that supports the parents. (From the standpoint of the Constitution (as a social contract) or an implied social contract involved in the importance of deliver of public health to a society)
16. Choose one of the arguments as superior and explain why it is superior. (This needs to be carefully argued and reasoned. Try to avoid choosing in terms of unstated biases.)
17. Provide a section in which you discuss the difficulties of choosing from among these three argument classes, the strengths of each and the weaknesses of each, and what you think they all may be missing. (For example, what are the difficulties in calculating social utility? Do the goods of the many outweigh the goods of the few? Is that just? What are the difficulties involved in deontology? Can universalizable values be calculated without becoming stilted? How does one choose between competing duties? What are the difficulties with social contract approaches? Are these inherently artificial because they are contrived conventions? Given the qualitative differences between these three broad approaches, how does one compare them? )
18. Provide a concluding paragraph which states what you did in the essay, and your general observations about the exercise.
19. Follow Turabian style and general rules of form, syntax, and grammar.

This assignment is worth 100 points. It should be at least 1500 words, and assembled in Turabian style according to the instructions at these university links: [WBU Turabian Style](https://www.wbu.edu/academics/schools/school-of-christian-studies/documents/Revised-SRPWritingStyleGuide2016.pdf). The observance of rules of grammar and clear writing are important in the assessment of this assignment. Students should avoid cutting and pasting material from the book or other sources without clear documentation. This is plagiarism and should be avoided at all costs. This assignment should be uploaded to the safe assignment tab on the blackboard page. Here is the [grading rubric](http://www.wbuwf.com/online/Courses/PHIL4319/Grading%20Rubric.docx) for this assignment.

## Essay-Second Draft

This will be a resubmission of the essay after reviewing the instructor’s comments on the returned copy of the first draft. These comments should be seriously, and may require a significant revision or in fact a total rewriting of the first draft. This final draft will be graded more rigidly than the first. This assignment should be submitted as a word document attachment to the upload link on Blackboard. Attached to the end of the assignment should be a listing of the changes made to the first draft submitted to create the final draft. 100 points.

# Grading Criteria

# Total points

Quizzes- 200 points

Blog posts- 160 points

Blog reactions to my blog comments- 35 points

Essays- 200 points

Total- 595 points

A—535-595 B—476-534 C--416-475 D—357-415 F—0-356

University Grading System

Symbol Percentage

A 90-100

B 80-89

C 70-79

D 60-69

F Below 60

Other symbols used for grading include:

CR Credit Satisfactory, but without qualitative grading.

NCR No Credit Unsatisfactory, but without qualitative grading.

I\*\* Incomplete May be given to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required for work reasons beyond the student’s control.

IP In progress Assigned to a course indicating that at the conclusion of a term the course will still be in progress.

X No grade No grade has been submitted by the instructor. The course grade which will replace the X must be submitted within 30 days from the beginning of the next full term.

W Withdrawal Course dropped or withdrawal from the University.

WP Withdraw passing Course dropped or withdrawal from the University after deadline to withdraw with a W and prior deadline to withdraw with a WP or WF

WF Withdraw failing Course dropped or withdrawal from the University after deadline to withdraw with a W and prior to deadline to withdraw with a WP or WF.

\*\*A grade of incomplete is changed if the deficiency is made up by midterm of the next regular semester; otherwise, it becomes "F". This grade is given only if circumstances beyond the student's control prevented completion of work during the semester enrolled and attendance requirements have been met.

17.1 Grade Appeal Statement: “Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Vice President of Academic Affairs/Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.”

# 18. SCHEDULE

All assignments, unless otherwise stated, are due on the Saturday of the week they are assigned at 11.59 P.M. C.S.T. The major exception is the last week, when assignments are due by 11:59 PM CST Wednesday of that week.

# Tentative Schedule

| Dates | Reading in Shafer-Landau, Chapters | Assignments Due |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week 1 –** March 22-27 | Introduction, and 1-2 | Quiz 1  Blog 1 Post |
| **Week 2 –** March 28-April 3 | 3-4 | Quiz 2  Blog 2 Post  Blog on My Comments on Your Chapter Blog for Week 1 |
| **Week 3 –** April 4-10 | 5-6; [Christian Ethics](http://media.sabda.org/alkitab-2/Religion-Online.org%20Books/Harkness,%20Georgia%20-%20Christian%20Ethics.pdf)-Chapter 1 | Quiz 3  Blog 3 Post  Blog on My Comments on Your Chapter Blog for week 2 |
| **Week 4-** April 11-17 | 7-8 | Quiz 4  Blog 4 Post  Blog on My Comments on Your Chapter Blog for Week 3 |
| **Week 5**-April 18-24 | 9-10 | Quiz 5  Blog 5 Post  Blog on My Comments on Your Chapter Blog for Week 4  First Draft of Essay |
| **Week 6 –** April 25-May 1 | 11-12 | Quiz 6  Blog 6 Post  Blog on My Comments on Your Chapter Blog for Week 5 |
| **Week 7-** May 2-8 | 13-14 | Quiz 7  Blog 7 Post  Blog on My Comments on Your Chapter Blog for Week 6 |
| **Week 8 –** May 9-15 | 15-16 | Quiz 8  Blog 8 Post  Final Draft of Essay  Blog on My Comments on Your Chapter Blog for Week 7 |