

PHI 2630: Ethical Issues  
University of North Florida

#### Course description

From the course catalog: "This course is an introduction to thinking critically about a range of ethical issues. As such, we will examine the differences between opinions and positions, debates and arguments, and stereotypes and assumptions. We will learn to identify, analyze, and respond to arguments using ethical standards and logical criteria. Because ethical issues are often heated and emotionally charged, we will spend time focusing on how to listen to one another, building our community around intellectually safe inquiries. In order to engage these questions together, we will develop a basic theoretical framework from which to begin, and then drawing on significant philosophical theories of ethics, we will focus our attention on selected issues, which may include but are not limited to issues such as abortion, euthanasia, informed consent, research ethics, food justice, friendship, sex, cheating, and parenting."

This course will be taught as an introduction to critical thinking about philosophical ethics with a focus on salient contemporary issues. We will begin the course with some groundwork regarding arguments, evidence, and fallacious reasoning, in addition to a quick survey of the most prominent philosophical moral theories (including consequentialism, Kantian moral theory, virtue ethics, natural law theory, rights-based moral theory, ethics of prima facie duty, and social contract theory).

Then we will spend the majority of the semester applying this theoretical work to specific contemporary moral cases, including abortion, euthanasia (including physician-assisted suicide), reproductive technologies (including cloning and genetic enhancement), nonhuman animals, world hunger and poverty, immigration, drug decriminalization and legalization, censorship (including hate speech and pornography), LGBTQ experiences (including 'coming out' and models of transsexuality), racism, and sexism.