

PHI 2630: Ethical Issues and Life Choices
Florida State University

Course Description

From the FSU bulletin: "This course draws on ethical theories to explore the major ethical issues that one faces as one makes decisions about the kinds of activities to engage in and the kind of life to lead. Issues such as those involving life and death (e.g., abortion, euthanasia, animal rights) and social justice (e.g. discrimination, responsibility to future generations) are examined."

This course will be taught as an introduction to critical thinking about ethical issues. During the first week, we will begin the course with some groundwork regarding how to read, write, and argue philosophically. This week is meant to ease students into doing philosophy and to prepare them for what follows before we zoom in on the subdiscipline of ethics.

After that, we will spend six weeks learning about seven basic moral theories and applying them to a variety of topics related to sexual morality. The primary goal of this section of the course is to familiarize students with basic ethical concepts and allow them to see how ethical theories are applied to make arguments about which actions are morally right and wrong.

The remaining eight weeks provide us with the opportunity to consider entrenched debates in ethics. After I introduce each of our topics, we will read two philosophers who disagree about the topic at hand. More specifically, we'll consider poverty, immigration, animals, the environment, euthanasia, abortion, drugs, and freedom of speech. The primary goal of this final section of the course is to help students develop their own arguments.