



## Syllabus



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# COURSE SYLLABUS

## HUMN 505: Introduction to Ethics - 4 Credits

Online

Fall, 2008

September 13 - December 12; (*Thanksgiving Break: November 22-28*)

Last Updated: July 28, 2008



Instructor: Elizabeth A. Roth, MA, JD

Contact Info: [Beth@rothlawoffices.com](mailto:Beth@rothlawoffices.com) (*after the course begins please use Blackboard private Messages*)

### Course Description

This course introduces students to a variety of prominent ethical theories. It examines their complex interrelations, historical development, and relevance to ordinary life. Students are encouraged to engage in the critical analysis and comparison of these theories and to consider how they might explain and evaluate contemporary controversies, such as war, environmental protection, euthanasia, and abortion. Relationships between ethics and other areas of philosophical investigation are considered.

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### Prerequisites

No prerequisites. **Note:** This course duplicates HUMV 554 Ethics in America.

### Learning Outcomes

As a result of the learning activities, it is anticipated that the learner will:

1. Identify philosophers associated with each of the major philosophical perspectives on ethics.
2. Explain the basic tenets of major ethical perspectives including relativism, hedonism, stoicism, utilitarianism, Christian ethics, deontology, and virtue theory.
3. Compare and contrast the historical development and interrelations among the various ethical perspectives.
4. Analyze how different ethical perspectives can be applied to evaluate contemporary ethical dilemmas.
5. Consider modern ethical perspectives like feminist ethics and environmental ethics and multicultural perspectives like Confucian or Buddhist ethics.
6. Identify their own ethical principles and explain with which ethical perspectives their principles most closely align.
7. Critically evaluate their own ethical decision-making and analyze it in light of ethical perspectives.
8. Reflect on a personal choice and explain the ethical principles used in making the choice.

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## Course Resources

### Textbook(s):

Rosenstand, Nina, **The Moral of the Story**, 5th Edition, McGraw-Hill, 2006. ISBN# 0-07-296335-2.

**Textbooks are available via GSC's online bookstore, MBS Direct at:**

<http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/gsc.htm> (The course-CRN number for ordering this textbook is: 10149). Textbooks can also be purchased from MBS via phone, mail or fax. For additional information, visit the [Online Bookstore](#) section of the college web site.

**PLEASE NOTE:** It is the learner's responsibility to have purchased all required course materials before the start of the course. Learners are expected to meet all course expectations even if the shipment of a required textbook or other learning resource is delayed. Be sure to choose the shipping option that will get your text/resource delivered in a timely manner.

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## Blackboard Orientations

**There are no face-to-face sessions for this course.** If you have never taken an Online Interactive Course (OIC) at the college, we highly recommend that you attend one of the [2-hour Blackboard Orientation sessions](#) available throughout the state. If you choose not to attend a face-to-face session, you are encouraged to complete the [Online Orientation with audio](#) at your own convenience.

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## Course Policies

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You will be assigned written assignments that are due throughout this course. It is the Learner's responsibility to submit the assignments on time. Make sure you check the dates and times that these assignments are due. No late assignments will be accepted.

It is also the responsibility of the Learner to submit all written assignments in a file format that this Instructor can open and read. If you are in doubt, please submit your assignment in an RTF file. If I am unable to open and read your assignments you will not get credit for the assignment even if it was submitted before the deadline!

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## Teaching Philosophy / Course Methods

This course depends on lively discussion and a free exchange of ideas to be successful. Often, your fellow Learners will present a position different than your own. I look forward to your exchange of positions and arguments on the discussion board and it is expected that all views will be respected!

You may want to plan your participation on the discussion board so that you post about three times per week. These postings should be well thought out and concise. You can get your point across in a few paragraphs.

I will be acting as a catalyst to your discussions; provoking further discussions with a few well placed questions or comments. My teaching method will be to stimulate your discussions and observe your

contributions to the discussion board, which should increase in its depth in understanding the concepts of Ethics as the semester goes on.

I will be checking in with the discussions at times throughout the week but most of my time with the course will be over the weekends. By 6pm on Sundays I will be posting the week's discussion board topics and announcements regarding the week's assignments.

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## Description of Course Activities and Requirements

The stellar student will:

- Post at least two comprehensive discussions for each discussion board question each week.
- Respond to the posted positions of the other learners and freely engage in discussion board debate.
- Participate in workgroup discussions.
- Submit four (4) well written conceptual papers on time (Instructions can be found within Course Contents).
- Research and effectively debate an assigned position of an ethical issue the final weeks of class.

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## Grading Percentages

Your final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

Activity	% of Final Grade
Work Group Discussion	10%
Discussion Board Participation	30%
Four (4) Conceptual Papers	40%
Debate Discussion	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Grades in this class will follow the scale of Granite State College, where A/4.0 is awarded for Excellent work and F/0.0 is awarded for Failure/ No credit.

## Granite State College Standard Grading Scale

Grade	Percent	Grade Points	Level of Achievement
A	95-100	4.0	Excellent
A <sup>-</sup>	90-94	3.67	
B <sup>+</sup>	87-89	3.33	Good
B	84-86	3.0	
B <sup>-</sup>	80-83	2.67	
C <sup>+</sup>	77-79	2.33	*Acceptable
C	74-76	2.0	
C <sup>-</sup>	70-73	1.67	†
D <sup>+</sup>	67-69	1.33	

D	64-66	1.00	Poor
D <sup>-</sup>	60-63	0.67	
F	≤59	0	Failure, no credit
*A grade of C or better is required to fulfill requirements in the major, minor, or general education core at GSC. Please consult the GSC catalog for details.			
† A grade of C <sup>-</sup> or below generally does not transfer to other academic institutions.			

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## Course Schedule & Topics

This course consists of four modules which are outlined in detail below. Consider the information below as a guide to the flow of work for this course. Complete details of assignments are available in the course Modules. Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

Module	Assignments/Activities
<b>Module 1</b> September 13–October 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Story as a Tool of Ethics</li> <li>• Conceptual Paper 1: Due Oct 3</li> </ul>
<b>Module 2</b> October 4 - 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What Should I Do? Theories of Conduct</li> <li>• Conceptual Paper 2: Due October 24</li> </ul>
<b>Module 3</b> October 25 - November 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How Should I Be? Theories of Virtue</li> <li>• Conceptual Paper 3: Due November 14</li> </ul>
<b>Module 4</b> November 15 - December 12  Note: Thanksgiving Break is Nov 22 -28.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applied Ethics: A Modern Sampler</li> <li>• Conceptual Paper 4: Due December 12</li> </ul>

**Note:** The schedule above may change at the instructor's discretion.

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## Library Resources

Granite State College has a Virtual Library (<http://www.granite.edu/current-students/virtual-library/>) available 24/7 with access to the full-text of thousands of journals and professional periodicals, an online Reference Room, selected Internet resources, writer's resources, research and citation help, and a collection of tutorials. The databases are password protected.

See GSC Library tab in MyGranite for username and password. In addition, the **Library Info** link in the course menu provides direct links to research databases, *Research FAQs* and more.

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## Academic Resources and Information Services

Academic assistance to students is available at GSC Centers at no additional charge in such areas as basic skills preparation in reading, writing and math; study skills and research and citation help. Academic Resources staff members work closely with faculty and students toward academic success. A whole range of tools is available, including study and time management tips, APA and MLA citation assistance, access to learning resources online, and feedback on course writing

projects. To contact an Academic Resource and Information Coordinator, see the Academic Resource Link on the Resources page in the course menu or go directly to [http://bbresources.granite.edu/course\\_docs/acad\\_resources.htm](http://bbresources.granite.edu/course_docs/acad_resources.htm).

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## Technical Assistance

For assistance with issues related to accessing the MyGranite portal, GSC email, Webrock, online courses or other technical issues related to any of the Blackboard tools, please visit the GSC Technical Assistance Center (<http://bbresources.granite.edu/techassist/help.htm>) for answers to the most frequently asked questions or to submit an online help request form. Or call **1-888-372-4270** (Hours: M-F, 8:30-5:00, messages checked twice daily on weekends. Extended hours for the week before start of the term and first week of the term: M-Th, 8:00-7:00.)

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## Documented Disabilities / Americans with Disabilities Act

Granite State College will provide qualified individuals with disabilities the same educational opportunities available to persons without disabilities. When an individual's documented disability creates a barrier to educational opportunities, the College will attempt reasonable accommodation to remove the barrier. If you need assistance, we recommend that you make contact early to ensure that your requests can be reviewed prior to the start of each term. If you wish to apply for accommodations, contact your academic advisor or the Dean of Learner Services in Concord. See the complete Granite State College policy in the current college catalog for further details.

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## Academic Honesty

An academic community is based on honesty and integrity. Plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty are not acceptable at Granite State College. Faculty and students have a joint responsibility to ensure the integrity of learning.

All work that you submit must be your own except in those instances when your instructor gives specific permission to collaborate. When quoting, summarizing or explaining ideas that are based on another's work, whether in print or online, make sure to cite references appropriately. Plagiarism is using another's words or even paraphrasing another's work without giving proper credit through the use of citations.

For Granite State College's complete [academic honesty policy](#), see the current college catalog.

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## Conduct in the Online Classroom

Membership in society implies minimal norms for civil behavior towards one another. It is Granite State College's expectation that all members of our college community treat faculty, staff, and fellow learners with respect. Learners need to be knowledgeable of and comply with college policies. Each individual is accountable for his/her actions and for the consequences of any behavior that is inconsistent with these values and expectations.

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## Institutional Assessment

Assessment is an ongoing process that enables the College to improve its programs, courses, and teaching methods. Institutional evaluation may be embedded in tests, exams, and other measurements of student learning. As members of a learning community, students, faculty, and staff

will be expected to participate in the important process of assessment on occasion. Confidentiality of any data that identify participants is maintained.

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