

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary**

Course Prefix and Number: PHI 220

Credits: 3

Course Title: Ethics

Course Description: Provides a systematic study of representative ethical systems.
Prerequisites: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and ENF 3. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: To provide a humanities elective which focuses on critical reading, writing, and thinking.

Course Objectives:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a. Explain and to apply the criteria that are used in making and evaluating normative judgments of human actions, experiences, policies, and institutions.
- b. Give an account and explanation for the rise and persistence of the institution of morality in cultures.
- c. Describe and critique the major proposals for supporting moral decisions without rules and with rules.
- d. Show the difficulties faced by egoism as a workable standard for moral decisions.
- e. Give an account of value and of obligation.
- f. Give an account of practical argument/reasoning about what ought to be done.

Major Topics to be Included:

1. **Moral Judgments:** Human desires and conflict; judgments of moral obligation (actions), moral value (persons), general value (interests and experiences).
2. **Moral Theories:** Theories of moral obligation (deontology and teleology); theories of moral value (person worth, merit worth); free will, moral responsibility; theories of general value (hedonism and agathism).
3. **Critique of Moral Reasoning:** Language of moral judgments and theories (definism, intuitionism, noncognitivism, ideal observer); relativism; the moral point of view.

Effective Date of Course Content Summary: Spring, 2014