

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

**Course Prefix and Number:** PHI 225

**Credits:** 3

**Course Title:** Selected Problems in Applied Ethics

**Course Description:** Analyzes and discusses significant contemporary ethical issues and problems existing throughout the various professions, such as business, medicine, law, education, journalism, and public affairs. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: 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 enhances critical reading, writing, and thinking skills.

**Course Objectives:**

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

- a. Have heightened sensitivity toward everyday ethical dilemmas by having gone through a process of moral reasoning and reflection on such issues as capital punishment, euthanasia, family relief, etc.
- b. Better understand and think more clearly about principles of moral action through having studied and reflected on the various ethical positions such as moral absolutism, cultural relativism, and utilitarianism.
- c. Build a deeper sense of moral responsibility through the reading, thinking, and discussion of moral issues and ethical theories presented in class.

**Major Topics to Be Included:**

- a. Ethical theories on the standards of moral right and wrong:
  1. Religious absolutism
  2. Cultural relativism
  3. Rational absolutism
  4. Utilitarianism
- b. Morality of taking life:
  1. Suicide
  2. Euthanasia
  3. Abortion
  4. Capital punishment
- c. The moral society:
  1. Famine relief
  2. Environmental ethics
  3. Affirmative action
  4. Privacy and its limits
  5. Animal rights
- d. The moral or good life:
  1. Greek view of virtue
  2. Hedonism
  3. Spiritual enlightenment
  4. Will to power

**Effective Date of Course Content Summary:** Spring, 2014