

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

Course Prefix and Number: PHI 220

Credits: 3

Course Title: Ethics

Course Description (including lecture hours, lab hours, total contacts)

Provides a systematic study of representative ethical systems. Lecture 3 hours per week.
Prerequisite: English placement recommendation for ENG 111 and satisfactory completion of ENG 4 if required by reading placement test. Prerequisite or corequisite: ENG 5 or ENG 7 if recommended by reading placement test. Lecture 3 hours per week.

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

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

English placement recommendation for ENG 111 and satisfactory completion of ENG 4 if required by reading placement test. Prerequisite or corequisite: ENG 5 or ENG 7 if recommended by reading placement test.

Course Objectives (Each item should complete the following sentence.)

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

- A. **Moral Judgments:** Human desires and conflict; judgments of moral obligation (actions), moral value (persons), general value (interests and experiences).
- B. **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).
- C. **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 (Month, Date Year): June 8, 2008