

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

Course Prefix and Number: PHI 225

Credits: 3

Course Title: Applied Ethics

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

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. 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 co-requisite: 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 enhances critical reading, writing, and thinking skills

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites (*Entry-level competencies **required** for enrollment*)

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:

1. Have heightened sensitivity towards everyday ethical dilemmas by having gone through a process of moral reasoning and reflection on such issues as capital punishment, euthanasia, family relief, etc.
2. 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.
3. 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

1. Ethical theories on the standards of moral right and wrong
 - a. religious absolutism
 - b. cultural relativism
 - c. rational absolutism
 - d. utilitarianism
2. Morality of taking life
 - a. suicide
 - b. euthanasia
 - c. abortion
 - d. capital punishment
3. The moral society
 - a. famine relief

- b. environmental ethics
 - c. affirmative action
 - d. privacy and its limits
 - e. animal rights
4. The moral or good life
- a. Greek view of virtue
 - b. Hedonism
 - c. Spiritual enlightenment
 - d. Will to power

Effective Date of Course Content Summary (Month, Date Year): March 14, 2004