



LIBERAL ARTS DIVISION
1400 TANYARD ROAD, SEWELL, NJ 08080
856-468-5000

**PHI 204: CONTEMPORARY MORAL ISSUES
SYLLABUS**

LECTURE HOURS/CREDITS: 3/3

**Prerequisites: RDG099 – Introduction to College Reading III
PHI 101—Introduction to Philosophy I**

Catalog Description: This course introduces several contemporary approaches to moral issues and decision making. We will investigate what makes an action right and wrong for a person living within a social arrangement, and what principles of conduct should guide communal living. Questions we will discuss include: What matters and why? Does human nature imply the right conduct? What is the basis to evaluate action as being morally right or wrong? Does moral wrongness of an action provide decisive reason for not doing this action? What authorizes moral standards for social conduct? The course will address such social issues of the contemporary Western society as, capital punishment, same sex marriage, abortion, social liberty, drug control, and other issues.

TEXTBOOK AND COURSE MATERIALS

It is the **responsibility of the student** to confirm with the bookstore and/or their instructor the textbook, handbook and other materials required for their specific course and section.

Please see current textbook prices at www.rcgc.bncollege.com

EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

Grading Distribution

<p>Individual Instructors may include the following assessment(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading Responses• Short Assignments• Midterm• Final• Attendance and Participation	<p>Grading to be determined by individual instructors</p>
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Grading Scale

The grading scale for each course and section will be determined by the instructor and distributed the first day of class.

ROWAN COLLEGE AT GLOUCESTER COUNTY CORE COMPETENCIES

(Based on the NJCC General Education Foundation - August 15, 2007; Revised 2011)

This comprehensive list reflects the *core* competencies that are essential for all RCGC graduates; however, each program varies regarding competencies required for a specific degree. Critical thinking is embedded in all courses, while teamwork and personal skills are embedded in many courses.

RCGC Core Competencies	
1	Written and Oral Communication Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.
2	Quantitative Knowledge and Skills Students will use appropriate mathematical and statistical concepts and operations to interpret data and to solve problems.
3	Scientific Knowledge and Reasoning Students will use the scientific method of inquiry, through the acquisition of scientific knowledge.
4	Technological Competency Students will use computer systems or other appropriate forms of technology to achieve educational and personal goals.
5	Society and Human Behavior Students will use social science theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political institutions and to act as responsible citizens.
6	Humanistic Perspective Students will analyze works in the fields of art, history, music, or theater; literature; philosophy and/or religious studies; and/or will gain competence in the use of a foreign language
7	Historical Perspective Students will understand historical events and movements in World, Western, non-Western or American societies and assess their subsequent significance.
8	Global and Cultural Awareness Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples.
9	Ethical Reasoning and Action Students will understand ethical issues and situations.
10	Information Literacy Students will address an information need by locating, evaluating, and effectively using information

PHI 204 CORE COMPETENCIES

(Please refer to the online syllabus for Core Competency Definitions and complete list of Student Learning Outcomes addressed in this course)

This course focuses on three of RCGC's Core Competencies:

- Written and Oral Communication
- Humanistic Perspective
- Historical Perspective

May, 2014, Revised July 2014

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: CONTEMPORARY MORAL ISSUES

Successful completion of PHI 204 will help students:	RCGC's Core Competencies	Evaluation/Assessment (Additional means of evaluation may be included by individual instructors)
<p>1. Understand ethics as an academic discipline and the essential nature of moral inquiry:</p> <p>a. Understand the importance of the moral philosophy and the historical development of some moral thoughts.</p> <p>b. Define the terms necessary for the study of philosophy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written and Oral Communication - Humanistic Perspective - Historical Perspective 	<p>Exams and Short Assignments Written Essays Class Discussions Group Discussions Attendance and Participation</p>
<p>2. Use critical approach in developing analytical skills to:</p> <p>a. Understand, evaluate, and develop arguments</p> <p>b. Distinguish valid and sound arguments from invalid arguments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written and Oral Communication - Humanistic Perspective 	<p>Exams and Short Assignments Written Essays Presentations Group Discussions Attendance and Participation</p>
<p>3. Develop an understanding of various moral systems:</p> <p>a. Understand moral terminology and associated concepts of ethics, political philosophy, and social theories</p> <p>b. Examine the cause of moral decisions and the meaning of moral concepts</p> <p>c. Evaluate Western explanations of the right conduct and a social justice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written and Oral Communication - Humanistic Perspective - Ethical Reasoning and Action 	<p>Exams and Short Assignment Written Essays Presentations Group Discussions Attendance and Participation</p>
<p>4. Demonstrate disciplined thinking and a well-presented opinions in moral, social, political, and religious, discussions and debates.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written and Oral Communication - Humanistic Perspective - Ethical Reasoning and Action 	<p>Exams and Short Assignments Written Essays Presentations Group Discussions Attendance and Participation</p>
<p>5. Develop an understanding of the historical Western social perspective:</p> <p>a. Summarize the essential achievement of Socratic Ethics, Virtue Ethics, Kantian Ethics, Utilitarianism, and Contractualism</p> <p>b. Understand how the great moral philosophers addressed some of the "big moral questions" asked by all people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written and Oral Communication - Humanistic Perspective - Historical Perspective 	<p>Exams and Short Assignments Written Essays Presentations Group Discussions Attendance and Participation</p>

Topical Outline

- Introduction to contemporary moral issues
- Reasons for Acting, Desiring, Believing
- Motivation for Doing “What is Right”
- Human Values
- Human Life: Death Penalty, Euthanasia, Abortion
- Well-Being
- Moral Motivation: Importance and Priority of Morality
- Sex and Marriage
- Using Another Person
- On Liberty: Pornography, Hate Speech, Censorship
- Social/Economic Justice
- Promises, Truth, and Lying

Note: The comprehensive topics discussed for this course will be determined by individual instructors

Affirmative Action Statement

The Board of Trustees is committed to providing an educational and workplace environment free from unlawful harassment and discrimination. All forms of employment and educational discrimination and harassment based upon race, creed, color, national origin, age, ancestry, nationality, marital or domestic partner or civil union status, sex, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, disability, liability for military service, affectional, or sexual orientation, atypical cellular or blood trait, genetic information (including refusal to submit to genetic testing) are prohibited and will not be tolerated.

For questions concerning discrimination contact Almarie J. Jones, Executive Director, Diversity and Equity, Affirmative Action/Title IX Officer at 856-415-2154 or ajones@rcgc.edu.

For disability issues, contact Dennis M. Cook, Director, Department of Special Services, ADA/504 Officer at 856-415-2265 or dcook@rcgc.edu.

Department of Special Services

The Department of Special Services, located in the Instructional Center, room 425A, welcomes students of all abilities. The staff members in Special Services are committed to providing support services and ensuring equal access to eligible students with documented disabilities as outlined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act with Amendments Act (ADAAA).

To maximize the potential of eligible students who self-identify, the Special Services staff provides an array of support services which may include extra time for tests and quizzes, testing in a separate location, advisement, interpreters, scribes, tutors, assistive technology (such as magnification devices and audio amplification), touch screen computers, audio books and note-taking assistance.

As students embark on their academic journey, they are encouraged to meet with staff members to identify, develop and implement support services that are in accord with their individual academic needs. Students are also encouraged to make use of other college support services that are available to all RCGC students currently enrolled in credited academic courses, such as tutoring services and the college library, which offer online information research and other materials needed to complement their studies.

Students registered with the Department of Special Services and who plan to earn an associate degree, further their education and transfer to a four-year institution, or enter the workforce, are encouraged to choose a corresponding program of study (college major) as soon as possible. The Special Services staff assists enrolled students with additional support that focuses on advancing students through their selected programs of study towards a goal of graduating.

Students who request academic support from the Department of Special Services can be assured that confidentiality will always be maintained. Accommodations are provided to address the special needs of individuals with disabilities under Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 together with the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA). Under these acts, the office advocates a user-friendly campus for accessibility and a learning-friendly campus for academic success.

For more information or to schedule an appointment to meet Special Services staff, please call 856-415-2265 or visit RCGC.edu/SpecialServices.

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To Register with Special Services

Students must follow these steps:

- Complete and submit the Student Profile form. Access the [Student Profile Form](#).
- Submit documentation detailing the student's disability. Support services will not be granted without documentation specifying the student's disability. Documentation should include the following information:
 - a. Diagnosis with written evaluation of current disability;
 - b. Date the student was diagnosed;
 - c. Tests used to reach diagnosis;
 - d. Credentials of the medical professional conducting evaluation; and
 - e. How the disability affects daily activities and/or academic performance.
- By clicking on the following links, students can download the [Special Education Records Release Form](#) and/or Medical Release Form to present to their medical care professional.
- Contact the Special Services office to schedule a meeting with a staff member.
 1. Students should schedule a meeting after submitting the [Student Profile Form](#), proper documentation and completing the College's placement test. (Click on [Special Accommodations for Placement Testing](#) to determine whether student should arrange his/her placement test through the Special Services office or the general Testing Center.
 2. During the meeting, the student and staff member will discuss his or her disability and determine eligible accommodations.

Accommodations

Students who qualify for accommodations are encouraged to register with the Department of Special Services at RCGC before they begin their academic career at Rowan College. This allows students to take advantage of any special accommodations and auxiliary aids that they might need and be eligible to receive.

- **Special accommodations** include but are not limited to extended time on tests, private test rooms to complete tests with the assistance of a reader or scribe, as well as a distraction-free test room.
- **Auxiliary aids** include but are not limited to note takers, tape recorders, large display calculators, interactive calculators, desktop magnifiers, large-screen computer monitors, touch-screen computer monitors, touch-screen laptop computers and JAWS® software. More information about adaptive technology can be found on the [technology](#) link. Students are responsible for identifying which accommodations and auxiliary aids they require for academic support.

Confidentiality

Students who register with the Department of Special Services are assured that their information is kept confidential.

In addition, the student's transcript will not indicate that the he or she is registered with the Department of Special Services. The student's specific special need is not disclosed to the student's instructors. However, accommodation letters are sent to each of the student's professors if the student needs testing accommodations or accommodations in the classroom. It is the student's choice whether or not to disclose the specifics of his or her special need.