



Education and Humanities Division
1400 Tanyard Road, Sewell, NJ 08080
856-468-5000

PHI 204: Contemporary Moral Issues

Syllabus

Lecture Hours/Credits: 3/3

Catalog Description

Prerequisite: RDG099 or ENG 104 and PHI 101

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 any other materials required for their specific course and section.

Click here to see current textbook prices at rcgc.bncollege.com.

Evaluation Assessment

Online Proctoring

All courses offered at RCSJ, whether they are web-enhanced, hybrid, or fully online, may include assessments that make use of Online Proctoring. To find out more about Online Proctoring, and to learn about the minimum technical requirements, visit rcsj.edu/elearning/online-proctoring.

Grading Distribution

Grading to be determined by individual instructors.

Individual instructors may include the following assessment(s):

- Reading Responses
- Short Assignments
- Midterm
- Final
- Attendance and Participation

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 South Jersey Core Competencies

(Based on the NJCCC General Education Foundation - August 15, 2007; Revised 2011; Adopted 2014)

This comprehensive list reflects the core competencies that are essential for all RCSJ 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.

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

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

- Written and Oral Communication
- Humanistic Perspective
- Historical Perspective

Student Learning Outcomes: Contemporary Moral Issues

Successful completion of PHI204 will help students:	RCSJ Core Competencies	Evaluation / Assessment (Additional means of evaluation may be included by individual instructors)
<p>Understand ethics as an academic discipline and the essential nature of moral inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the importance of the moral philosophy and the historical development of some moral thoughts. • Define the terms necessary for the study of philosophy 	<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>Use critical approach in developing analytical skills to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand, evaluate, and develop arguments • Distinguish valid and sound arguments from invalid arguments 	<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>Develop an understanding of various moral systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand moral terminology and associated concepts of ethics, political philosophy, and social theories • Examine the cause of moral decisions and the meaning of moral concepts • Evaluate Western explanations of the right conduct and a social justice 	<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>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>

Successful completion of PHI204 will help students:	RCSJ Core Competencies	Evaluation / Assessment (Additional means of evaluation may be included by individual instructors)
<p>Develop an understanding of the historical Western social perspective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarize the essential achievement of Socratic Ethics, Virtue Ethics, Kantian Ethics, Utilitarianism, and Contractualism <p>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 a work and academic environment that maintains and promotes affirmative action and equal opportunity for all employees and students without discrimination on the basis of certain enumerated and protected categories. These categories are race, creed (religion), color, national origin, nationality, ancestry, age, sex (including pregnancy and sexual harassment), marital status, domestic partnership or civil union status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, genetic information, liability for military service, or mental or physical disability, including AIDS and HIV related illnesses.

For questions concerning discrimination, contact Almarie J. Jones, Special Assistant to the President, Diversity and Equity/Title IX and Compliance, 856-415-2154 or ajones@rcsj.edu or (Cumberland) Nathaniel Alridge, Jr., JD, Director, Diversity and Equity/Title IX and Judicial Affairs, 856-691-8600, ext. 1414 or nalridge@rcsj.edu. For disability issues or any barriers in the learning or physical environment related to a document condition/disability please contact: Gloucester campus – Dennis M. Cook, Director, Department of Special Services, ADA/504 Officer at 856-415-2265 or dcook@rcsj.edu; or Cumberland Campus – Meredith Vicente, Senior Director, Physical & Learning Disabilities, Center for Academic & Student Success (CASS) at 856-691-6900 ext. 1282 or mvicent1@rcsj.edu

Department of Special Services

The Department of Special Services is located in the Instructional Center, room 425A. The Special Services Department is 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. If you are an eligible student with a documented disability please visit our website at RCSJ.edu/SpecialServices or call the office at 856-415-2265 or 856-415-2247 to speak to the Assistant Director Carol Weinhardt, cweinhar@rcsj.edu.

Reporting Allegations of Sexual Assault and Resource Referrals (8/2020) Gloucester Campus

There are multiple safe places for students to report allegations of sexual assault, both on and off campus. Reports of sexual assault can be made to any of the following offices listed in the chart below.

All students are encouraged to report alleged crimes on campus. Crimes that pose a threat to the campus community must be reported to 9-1-1, Security, the Sheriff's Office or the Deptford Township Police Department. All employees, including Security staff, must report incidents of discrimination, harassment or sexual misconduct to the Title IX Officer.

Service	Resource	Phone Number/Location/Website
Non-Confidential Reporting Local Law Enforcement	Gloucester County Sheriff's Office Deptford Township Police Dept. Gloucester Co. Prosecutor's Office Sexual Assault Response Team	856-681-2200 856-845-2220 856-384-5500 856-384-5555
Non-Confidential Reporting 9-1-1 and Campus Security	9-1-1 Gloucester County Emergency Management Dispatch Campus Security Blue Light Emergency Phones OR ext. 4444 from any campus desk phone	9-1-1 or push RED button on Campus Blue Light Emergency Phones 856-681-6287
Non-Confidential On-Campus Reporting Support Services	Almarie J. Jones Special Assistant to the President Diversity and Equity/Title IX and Compliance John F. Ryder Director Student and Veteran Affairs	856-415-2154 College Center, Room 116 ajones@rcsj.edu 856-468-5000, ext. 6456 College Center, room 202 jryder@rcsj.edu
Confidential On-Campus Counseling and Support Services	Lois Y. Lawson-Bridgell, Ph.D. MSW, LSW, Director Counseling & Wellness Services Center William Leonard, Ph.D. Intervention Teams Consultant Crystal Noboa, LSW, MSW Director, The Center for People in Transition (PIT) Diane Mussoline, EdS, LMFT Director of Behavioral Services	856-464-5236 l Lawsonb@rcsj.edu College Center, Room 206 856-415-2119 wleonard@rcsj.edu College Center, STEM Office C-168 856-415-2264 cnoboa@rcsj.edu Workforce Development Bldg., room 809 856-494-5665 dmussoli@rcsj.edu College Center, Room 200A
Confidential Off-Campus Full-Service Support	Center for Family Services/ Services Empowering Rights of Victims (SERV)	1-866-295-7378 Camden and Gloucester counties centerffs.org/serv
Hospitals with Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners	Inspira Medical Center Jefferson Washington Township Hospital	700 Mullica Hill Rd. Mullica Hill, NJ · 856-508-1000 435 Hurffville-Crosskeys Rd., Turnersville, NJ · 856-582-2500