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PHI 102: Ethics OER Curation

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Overview

Scope Notes

This PHI 102 Ethics course teaches to the general education student learning objectives that correspond to the Foundation Philosophy and Literature requirement as outlined in the General Education handbook. Specifically, the course explores, What is good? What is evil? Are there objective standards for right and wrong? What are these objective standards? How can they be applied to important contemporary moral problems? OER that considers the answers philosophers give to these and related questions would be most applicable to being adopted.

Current textbooks and materials

Sample resources from current PHI 102 courses from the syllabi of record:

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (Hackett)

deBeauvoir, Simone, *The Second Sex* (Vintage)

DuBois, W.E.B., *The Souls of Black Folk* (Yale University Press)

Hume, David. *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals* (Hackett)

Kant, Immanuel, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals* (Hackett)

MacIntyre, Alasdair, *A Short History of Ethics* (Notre Dame Press)

Mill, John Stuart. *Utilitarianism*. (Hackett)

Ni, Peimin, *Understanding the Analects of Confucius* (SUNY Press)

Nietzsche, Friedrich, *On the Genealogy of Morals* (Hackett) Shafer-Landau, Russ

The Fundamentals of Ethics (Oxford)

Plato, *The Republic* (Hackett)

Pojman, Louis. *How Should We Learn? An Introduction to Ethics* (Wadsworth)



Solomon, Robert and Higgins, Kathleen, *Introducing Philosophy: A Text with Integrated Readings* (Oxford)

Search Notes

The search consulted the Open Textbook Library, OER Commons, Merlot, Pressbooks, eCampus Ontario, BC Campus, and Rebus Community. The search contained many traditional textbook style OER, which is contained in this curation report. Additionally, there were some alternative learning modules, such as videos and online courses, that can be featured in additional OER curation reports if an instructor is interested. Generally the search resulted in many replacement textbooks and readings that will likely be satisfactory replacements for current texts.

Additionally, due to the publication dates of the typical primary readings for ethics courses, the majority of readings will be out of copyright and in the public domain for easy addition to any selected OER or course specific created OER.

Gap Analysis

In general there does not appear to be gaps that do not adequately match currently used materials, but gaps may arise depending on individual instructor needs and interests. The resources are heavily Western philosophy leaning though and this could represent a gap depending on how instructors approach their course.

Promising OER Options

Introduction to Philosophy: Ethics

- George Matthews and Christina Hendricks, *Introduction to Philosophy: Ethics*, Rebus Community (2019). ISBN 13: 9781989014080
- Available from [Rebus](#)
- PDF, ebook, online book, XML, ODF
- CC BY
- Comments: This introductory text to ethics examines judgments about good and bad, right and wrong, and further explores concepts central to how we evaluate our own and each others' behavior and choices. This text primarily covers writings and discussions mostly within the Western cultural tradition over the last couple of millenia. It considers questions about moral and ethical judgment: What is the relationship between religion and ethics? How can we reconcile self-interest and ethics? What do recent discussions in evolutionary biology or have to say about human moral systems? The text invites students to participate in their exploration of these and many other questions in philosophical ethics through eight chapters that are written by different authors, exploring moral relativism, ethics and religion, virtue ehetics, utilitarianism, feminism, and evolutionary ehtics.

Ethics for A-Level

- Mark Dimmock and Andrew Fisher, Ethics for A-Level, University of Nottingham Open Book Publishers (2017). ISBN 13: 9781783743902
- Available from [Open Textbook Library](#)
- PDF, online book, XML
- CC BY
- Comments: This OER textbook was designed for A-level students in the United Kingdom, but is readily applicable to be utilized or revamped for undergraduate students. The accessible and wide-ranging textbook explores key ideas in the fields of normative ethics, metaethics and applied ethics with rigorous explanation. Individual theories are discussed in the first part of the book that are applied to a wide range of contemporary situations including business ethics, sexual ethics, and eating animals. A wealth of real-life examples, set out with depth and care, illuminate the complexities of different ethical approaches while conveying their modern-day relevance. Additionally, the OER includes end-of-chapter summaries, key terms, and common mistakes to avoid.

Introduction to Ethics

- Manuela A. Gomez, Introduction to Ethics, El Paso Community College / Lumen Learning
- Available from [Achieving the Dream](#)
- PDF, epub, XML, ODF, Common Cartridge
- CC BY
- This OER textbook was designed to meet the requirement of a college level introduction to ethics course. The text covers an introduction to ethics, ethical judgment, making ethical decisions, making mistakes in reasoning, ethical theories, and contemporary ethical issues across its 6 main chapters. Additionally, an appendix includes resources for students on reading philosophical texts, philosophical dialogue, and writing philosophy. Since this was a OER designed for a course there may be some extraneous course specific information, but these may be easily removed and the license permits adaptations, remixes, and any derivative works for an instructor to make the text suit their class needs.

Applied Ethics Primer

- Letitia Meynell and Clarisse Paron, Applied Ethics Primer,
- Available from [AtlanticOER Pressbooks Network](#)
- PDF, online book
- CC BY-NC
- Comments: This OER may be most appropriate as a student resource or a source for assigned readers rather than a replacement OER textbook. The OER was designed to meet applied ethics course requirements to provide a brief introduction to ethics, survey, or primer on ethical theory and moral decision making. The primer offers a concise introduction to both basic argumentation and normative ethical theory. Its greatest

advantage over other ethics course OER is that it provides some information beyond just the Western tradition.

Stretch Resource Options

Ethics in Law Enforcement

- Steve McCartney and Rick Parent, Ethics in Law Enforcement, Simon Fraser University / BCCampus (2015).
- Available from [Open Textbook Library](#)
- Online, PDF, ebook
- CC BY
- Comments: This is a stretch resource option that would be most suited as supplemental readings and class discussion if it meets the interest of an instructor. The text examines the moral and ethical issues that exist within law enforcement through familiarizing readers with the basic history, principles, and theories of ethics and then applying ethics to the major components of the criminal justice system. Specific topics covered will include core values, codes of conduct, ethical dilemmas, organizational consequences, liability, and the importance of critical thinking. This is an excellent resource for an instructor that would like to include critical debates on contemporary ethical issues in law enforcement - and may be a current real-life example that students engage at a greater depth.

Stand up, Speak out: The Practice and Ethics of Public Speaking

- Stand up, Speak out: The Practice and Ethics of Public Speaking, University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing (2016). ISBN 13: 9781946135254
- Available from [Open Textbook Library](#)
- PDF, ebook, online book, XML, ODF
- CC BY-NC-SA
- Comments: This resource focuses on helping students become more seasoned and polished public speakers, and second is its emphasis on ethics in communication. It is this practical approach and integrated ethical coverage that sets this resource apart from others in philosophy and communication. The text may be most useful for philosophy courses that have a larger number of communication, political science, or business majors - or perhaps only part of the text that focuses on ethics may be most appropriate for a course.

Business Ethics

- Stephen M. Byars and Kurt Stanberry, Business Ethics, OpenStax (2021). ISBN-10: 1-947172-57-3
- Available from [OpenStax](#)

- PDF, online book, Kindle, print copy for purchase
- CC BY
- Comments: This OER was designed to meet the scope and sequence requirements of the single semester business ethics course, and as a result is a stretch resource depending on the scope and interest of an ethics instructor for their specific course. The text features case studies, application scenarios, and links to video interviews with executives, all of which help instill in students a sense of ethical awareness and responsibility. Due to the wide online availability of the text and its liberal CC BY license, it is also an option for instructors to select only part(s) of the resource to highlight, such as specific s ethics readings and video interviews, to stimulate relevant course discussions.

Critical Thinking and Applied Ethics

- R. Matthew Shockey, Critical Thinking and Applied Ethics, Indiana University Pressbooks.
- Available from [Pressbooks](#)
- Online book
- CC BY-NC-ND
- Comments: This textbook was designed for a similar Philosophy 102 course on critical thinking and applied ethics. Module 1 is focused on the course syllabus and institution specific information that will not be applicable for other courses. Instructors who find this OER useful may either directly link to specific modules or chapters for their courses, or download individual versions of modules or chapters. Due to the licensing, derivative works are not permitted and the material would need to stay the same. The rest of the OER covers an introduction to applied ethics, values and making claims, and arguments through multiple modules. For instructors who want argument as a main point of their ethics courses, this offers the most concentrated information in a single OER found. This resource is likely to be applicable for many undergraduate-level philosophy ethics courses, but is a bit more limiting with its licensing.