

PHIL 2625 - Introduction to Professional Ethics

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 02, CRN 42488,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Paul Capezzuto

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Dr. Paul Capezzuto

Instructor Professional Qualifications: I have been teaching philosophy since 1977.

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Education

BA with honors Duquesne University 1973

MA Duquesne University 1976

PhD Duquesne University 1978

Course Description

2625. Introduction to Professional Ethics. An examination of the ideals and virtues central to professionalism; study of selected codes of professional ethics and their roots in classical ethical traditions; and analysis of selected ethical issues and problems in a variety of professions. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Ethics across the professions		

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	What is professionalism p.1-9	How do we recognize professionals?	We will discuss the nature of professionalism. Be prepared to offer your thoughts on the nature of professionalism.
8/31	What is good leadership pp. 9-13	Are good leaders really good?	We will discuss some of the positive and negative aspects of being a leader.
9/7	Lawyers as professionals p.24-28	What are the requirements for a good lawyer?	What are the ethical ramifications of being a lawyer? Are legal decisions always ethical ones? Be prepared to discuss the implications of legal decisions.
9/14	good doctors p. 33-38	What is a good doctor? Are there issues with medical decisions. Can these be defended?	Be prepared to discuss the ethical implications of medical issues.9/15 Assignment 1 due 9/18
9/21	How to be ethical-relativism p.59-63	What is relativism? Is relativism a viable ethical position?	Be prepared to openly discuss the position of relativism.



9/28	On the good life p. 63-68	Aristotle's concept of good.	We will discuss the position of virtue ethics. Be prepared to talk honestly regarding the value of such a position. 9/29
10/5	Ring of Gyges p. 69-73	Plato-Can we defend the idea that injustice is preferable to justice. Can it be defended? p. 69-73	We will discuss the issue of justice vs. injustice. Be prepared to discuss and defend your position.
10/12	Leviathan p. 74-78	Can Materialism be defended as a viable ethical theory. 74-78	We will discuss Hobbes' view of ethics as a derivation from human nature. Be prepared to defend this position. Assignment 2 due 10/16
10/19	The Metaphysics of morals p. 79-83	Are ethical principles the good purely rational?	We will discuss Kant's principle of metaphysics. Be prepared to discuss his arguments in some detail.
10/26	Utilitarianism p. 84-88	Can happiness define the good?	Can ethics be based upon happiness?
11/2	Feminist ethics p. 94-100	Is there a male vs. female ethics.	Be prepared to discuss ethics as it relates to gender. 11/3
11/9	Professional duties p. 100-119	Advocacy in the classroom?	Is it appropriate for a teacher to firmly advocate for a position? 11/10 Assignment 3 - 10/16
11/16	Doctor's right to quit? p. 123-130	Should doctors be able to quit care?	Is it ethical for a doctor to leave a patient? We will discuss this in detail.
11/23	Ambulance Chasing p. 129-133	Should lawyers chase cases	Is it ethical for lawyers to solicit clients. Be prepared to discuss and defend your position on this. 11/24
11/30	Can deception be ethical p. 179-ff.	Is it ethical to be deceptive?	Can being deceptive be justified? Be prepared to defend your position.
12/7			Final exam

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.