

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

**Course Prefix and Number:** PHI 220

**Credits:** 3

**Course Title:** Ethics

**Course Description:** Provides a systematic study of representative ethical systems.  
Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11.  
Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose:** To provide a humanities elective which focuses on critical reading, writing, and thinking.

**Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:**

Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- a. Explain and apply the criteria that are used in making and evaluating normative judgments of human actions, experiences, policies, and institutions;
- b. Give an account and explanation for the rise and persistence of the institution of morality in cultures;
- c. Describe and critique the major proposals for supporting moral decisions without rules and with rules;
- d. Show the difficulties faced by egoism as a workable standard for moral decisions;
- e. Give an account of value and of obligation; and
- f. Give an account of practical argument/reasoning about what ought to be done.

**Major Topics to Be Included:**

- a. Moral Judgments: Human desires and conflict; judgments of moral obligation (actions), moral value (persons), general value (interests and experiences)
- b. Moral Theories: Theories of moral obligation (deontology and teleology); theories of moral value (person worth, merit worth); free will, moral responsibility; theories of general value (hedonism and agathism)
- c. Critique of Moral Reasoning: Language of moral judgments and theories (definism, intuitionism, noncognitivism, ideal observer); relativism; the moral point of view.

**Date Created/Updated** (Month, Day, and Year): December 18, 2019