

Glassboro State College Senate Curriculum Committee

Approval Form

Proposal Title: Contemporary Moral Problems

Sponsor(s) Howard R. Cell Dept.: Philosophy/Religion Ext. 6049
David W. Clowney

Check one: Course Specialization Concentration Minor Achievement Certificate
 Certification Program Major Program Minor Change (please name deletion or credit/title/catalog change)

Undergraduate Graduate Credit Hours

<p>Step 1 (Department)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <u>10/11/89</u> Date</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved</p> <p><u>Howard R. Cell</u> Dept. CC Chairperson</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reviewed <u>10/11/89</u> Date</p> <p><u>Howard R. Cell</u> Dept. Chairperson</p>	<p>Step 2 (Receipt)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SCC# <u>89-90-06</u></p> <p>Proposal Received <u>10/23/89</u> Date</p> <p><u>Linda Ross</u> SCC Chairperson</p>	<p>Step 3 (School CC)</p> <p>Reviewed <u>4-23-90</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved</p> <p>Comments:</p> <p><u>Charles W. Schultz</u> School Curr. Comm. Chairperson</p>
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Step 4 (Academic Dean) **Comments:**

Recommend
 Not Recommend
 Conditionally Recommend (see comments)

Reviewed 4-23-90 Date

Linda Ross
Signature, Dean of School

Step 5 (SCC)

Open Hearing 5/4/90 Date Approved by Senate Curriculum Committee 5/4/90 Date

Returned to sponsor(s) for the following reasons:

Step 6 (Senate)

Presented to Senate 5/17/90 Date Approved Not Approved

Notification to Executive Vice-President/Provost _____ Date

Linda Ross
Signature, SCC Chairperson

Step 7 (Executive V.P./Provost)

Received 6/4/90
Date

Approved Yes No

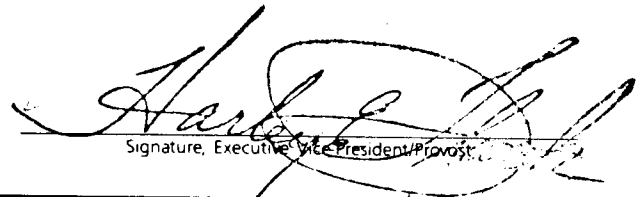
If no, reasons are as follows:

Student credit hours 3

Faculty load hours 3

Equalized credit hours 3

Official copy and approval sheet filed 6/25/90
Date


Signature, Executive Vice President/Provost

Registrar

Approved course description received 6/27/90
Date

Hegis Taxonomy and Course Number assigned 1509-392

B. J. Ke (sic) for DB 6/27/90
Signature, Registrar Date

Notification forwarded:

- Senate Curriculum Committee Chairperson
- Department Chairperson(s)
- Academic Dean(s)
- Registrar
- Sponsor(s)

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**COURSE PROPOSAL
FOR
CONTEMPORARY MORAL PROBLEMS**

I. DETAILS:

- A. **Course Title:** Contemporary Moral Problems
- B. **Sponsor:** Howard Cell, Chair; David Clowney, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Philosophy/Religion.
- C. **Credit Hours:** 3 hours.
- D. **Course Level:** Undergraduate: Upper division.
- E. **Curricular Effect:** Elective for both minor in philosophy and concentration in philosophy and religion; intended to become a general education elective.
- F. **Prerequisites:** None.
- G. **Implementation:**
 - Time of implementation: fall semester 1990
 - Scale of implementation: offered once a year.
- H. **Adequacy:** Current staff, classroom facilities, and library resources are adequate.
- I. **Evaluation:** This course is to be an integral part of the philosophy program.

II. RATIONALE:

- A. **Merits:** This course deals with the examination of present-day ethical problems in the light of ethical analysis and ethical theory: euthanasia, suicide, abortion, sexual morality, environmental ethics, crime and punishment, social justice, and war, among others. This course is unique and does not overlap with two other courses currently in place as department offerings. Introduction to Ethics (1509.250) differs both in content and approach by its examination of major moral thinkers and their moral theories by means of a critical study of classic texts in moral philosophy. (E.g., Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics, John Stuart Mill's Utilitarianism, Kant's Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals.) Business Ethics (1509.332) differs significantly in content in that it concentrates on issues specifically related to the field of business and corporate management.

This proposed course will enhance the curricular offerings of the college by strengthening the department's minor in Philosophy and concentration in Philosophy and Religion. College curricular goals are consistent with this course proposal in that it provides an integrative dimension to the student's educational experience. The May 4, 1987 draft of the Glassboro State College Strategic Plan FY 1988-90, asserts that the primary mission of the college includes "providing a liberal education that transmits our cultural heritage, conveys our accumulated knowledge, and examines the values of our society." (p. 9)

III. ESSENCE OF THE COURSE

A. Course Objectives: As a result of this course the student will:

- further define and understand, and grow in commitment to basic values related to the issues discussed.
- be able to identify and discuss five moral controversies facing contemporary society.
- be able to discuss the philosophical assumptions underlying divergent points of view regarding five identified ethical issues.
- be able to specify and discuss the historical, cultural, psychological, religious, political and economic aspects of five identified moral controversies.
- write an essay on at least one contemporary moral issue and support major claims by means of accurate data and valid argument.
- identify at least five newspaper or magazine articles which shed light on topics contained in the syllabus and share this information with the class.

B. Topical Outline/Content. This course will deal with issues in each of the numbered areas; listed are sample issues which may be discussed, though not all will be covered each semester.

1. Preliminary considerations: What are ethical values and where do they come from? Ethical practice and ethical theory; relativism and absolutism, deontology and teleology, morality and religion.

2. Issues of life and death:
Defining life;
Abortion;
Euthanasia, suicide;
War, capital punishment.
3. Ethical issues in health care:
Patient autonomy and physician responsibility;
Distribution and limitation of health care costs;
Confidentiality;
Quality of life as a decisive factor in health care;
Poverty and health care.
4. Issues concerning individuals and society:
Crime and punishment;
Individual and Structural Evil;
Individual liberty and social welfare.
5. Issues of sex and gender:
Defining sexual morality;
Pornography and sexual violence;
Sexual equality;
Gay rights.
6. People and the environment:
Environmental ethics;
Animal rights.
7. *Computer Technology*

C. **Evaluation of Students:** Specific grading procedures are at the discretion of the individual instructor and may include various methods such as:

- class participation;
- quizzes on assigned readings;
- in-term and final examinations;
- term paper;
- written assignments in the form of analyses of representative ethical dilemmas.

D. **Course Evaluation:** Student evaluations will assess the course in terms of meeting course objectives, pedagogical techniques and appropriateness of instructional materials. Departmental review will be ongoing, especially during the first year this course will be offered.

E. **Consultation:** This course proposal takes into consideration similar courses in applied ethics taught at Penn State, Widener University, Neumann College, Delaware County Community College, Villanova University and Thomas Jefferson University. Letters from Glassboro State faculty members Erika Freiburger, Lois Winand, and Barbara Norton are attached.

F. **Additional Information:** Suggested bibliography:

1. Arthur, John. Morality and Moral Controversies (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1981) pp. 497.
2. Abelson, Raziell, and Friguegnon, Marie-Louise. For Modern Life (N.Y.: St. Martin's Press) pp. 429.
3. Barry, Vincent. Applying Ethics: A Text with Readings (Belmont, California: Wadsworth, 1985) pp. 421.
4. Beauchamp, Tom. Contemporary Issues in Bioethics (Belmont, California: Wadsworth, 1982) pp. 614.
5. Beauchamp, Tom, and Perlin, Seymour. Ethical Issues in Death and Dying (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall) pp. 368.
6. Curtin, Lea, and Flaherty, M. Josephine, Nursing Ethics: Theories and Pragmatics (Bowie, Maryland: Robert J. Brady Co., 1982) pp. 363.
7. Leiser, Burton, Liberty, Justice, and Morals: Contemporary Value Conflicts (N.Y.: MacMillan, 1973) pp. 436.
8. Munson, Ronald, Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics (Belmont, California: Wadsworth, 1983) pp. 589.
9. Murphy, Jeffrie. Punishment and Rehabilitation (Belmont, California, 1985) pp. 233.
10. Nolan, Richard, and Kirkpatrick, Frank. Living Issues in Ethics (Belmont, California: Wadsworth, 1982) pp. 392.
11. Purtill, Richard, Moral Dilemmas: Readings in Ethics and Social Philosophy (Belmont, California: Wadsworth, 1985) pp. 425.
12. Regan, Tom. Matters of Life and Death: New Introductory Essays in Moral Philosophy (N.Y.: Random House, 1986) pp. 437.

13. Satris, Stephen. Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Moral Issues (Guilford, Connecticut: Dushkin Publishing Group, 1988) pp. 316.
14. Sommers, Christina and Somers, Fred, Vice and Virtue in Everyday Life (N.Y.: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1989) pp. 849.
15. Sterba, James. The Ethics of War and Nuclear Deterrence (Belmont, California: Wadsworth, 1985) pp. 182.
16. Valance, Theodore. Values and Ethics in Human Development Professions (Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall-Hunt, 1984) pp. 502.
17. Wright, Richard, Human Values in Health Care (N.Y.: McGraw-Hill, 1987) pp. 303.

Relevant Journals at Savitz Library

1. Ethics: An International Journal of Social, Political and Legal Philosophy.
2. Journal of Business Ethics.
3. Journal of Religious Ethics.
4. Philosophy and Public Affairs.

Catalog Description

1509.XXX Contemporary Moral Problems 3 s.h.

This course will acquaint the student with recent work in applying moral theory to such issues as the environment, nuclear war and deterrence, and computers, and to such professions as medicine, nursing, business, education and law.



GLASSBORO STATE COLLEGE

Foreign Languages and Literatures Department

Glassboro, New Jersey 08028-1770 (609) 863-6021

Dr. Howard Cell
Chairperson Dept. of Philosophy

Re. Your course proposal "Applied Ethics/Contemporary Moral Issues"

7/6/88

Dear Howard:

I have read your course proposal with great interest and would like to congratulate you. Such a course was long needed and will fill a real need in the curriculum. The proposal is well thought out. I hope it will be approved very soon so that many students can profit from it as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Erika Freiburger, Chair



GLASSBORO STATE COLLEGE

Home Economics Department Glassboro, New Jersey 08028-1755 (609) 863-7041

TO: Howard Cell, Chair, Dept. Philosophy/Religion

FROM: Lois Winand, Chair, Dept. Home Economics

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'LW'.

DATE: June 27, 1988

RE: Course Proposal

Your course proposal, applied Ethics I Contemporary Moral Issues, is most interesting and relevant. The content is very comprehensive and certainly contains the major concerns of most Americans.

This course is particularly suitable for our students in the Human Services in Home Economics Specialization. I am very supportive of this course and will be advising students in all our programs to elect it.

Good Luck.



GLASSBORO STATE COLLEGE

Special Educational Services/Instruction Department

Glassboro, New Jersey 08028-1751 (609) 863-7091

TO: Howard Cell, Chairman
Philosophy and Religion Department

FROM: Barbara R. Norton, Coordinator
School Nursing Program

DATE: September 8, 1988

RE: Proposal for New Course, Applied Ethics/Contemporary Moral Issues

I've read your proposal and would highly support it as a new course, especially if it is to be included as a general education course.

It surely is a course that would be valuable and of interest to the students in the degree program in School Nursing, and could be a choice for them under the general education requirement. As I'm sure you are well aware, there are many ethical/moral "dilemmas" in Nursing.

- I. Under B. Topical Outline/Content I would assume that perhaps No. 11 Ethical Issues in Health Care would be expanded or enlarged. There are some serious concerns today re: letting patients die and re: patients with AIDS. There have been some excellent articles recently in nursing journals and also workshops, etc. relating to nursing concerns and responsibilities in the care of people with AIDS.
- II. There are other books that relate to the content of the proposed course in relation to health care that could be included in the expanded bibliography. I would be glad to give the titles to you later if needed.
- III. Under Relevant Journals at Savitz Library you could include some nursing journals that are applicable in the library.
Example: American Journal of Nursing
Nursing '88
R.N.
etc.

If you just listed nursing journals, students could use the Nursing Index. There are 8 nursing journals in the library that are used by students in the program. There are many other excellent nursing journals but I can really only order those that are more related to the School Nursing Programs. And of course there are many medical journals which would have articles pertaining to this area, but we don't have them in Savitz Library. (Cooper Medical Center and Kennedy Memorial Centers Libraries would have them.)

If you need a letter of support from me when you submit the proposal, I would be glad to write one.

Catalog Description

1509.XXX Contemporary Moral Problems 3 s.h.

This course will acquaint the student with recent work in applying moral theory to such issues as the environment, nuclear war and deterrence, and computers, and to such professions as medicine, nursing, business, education and law.