

**DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**  
**UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**Winter Session December 27, 2024 – January 17, 2025**

**<http://www.buffalo.edu/cas/philosophy/undergrad-study/ug-courses.html>**

**PHI 107 Ethics**

Online Instructor: Jisoo Seo

Online Class #: 10317

Is ethics objective or relative? What is the best way to assess the morality of an action or a person? What kind of person should we strive to be? This course introduces the ongoing discussion of the nature of morality, what might be the best criteria for assessing right and wrong, and what factors are relevant in difficult ethical situations. The course is structured in two parts. The first part discusses what morality is and surveys the most influential ethical theories: consequentialism, deontology, virtue ethics, natural law theory, and ethics of care. The second part applies what we learned to problems of economic justice.

**PHI 237 Medical Ethics: Values in Medicine**

Online Instructor: Sean Kermath

Online Class #: 10081

In this course, we will consider a variety of ethical issues that arise in the biomedical field. You will be introduced to some of the major ethical frameworks within moral philosophy (e.g. utilitarianism, deontology) as well as the basic method and tools of philosophical analysis. We will survey examples of applications of these frameworks to various bioethical issues. You will develop the skills needed to read, discuss, and write about philosophical issues within bioethics. You will practice applying the tools of philosophical analysis in order to (i) recognize the ethical frameworks being applied to various bioethical issues, (ii) identify arguments presented in the readings and assignments, (iii) discuss your own critical evaluations of the arguments, and (iv) construct and defend your own evaluations and arguments about these issues in writing. The main goal is to get you to become better, more careful thinkers, both in general and about bioethical questions in particular. Not only will you become familiar with a number of different views surrounding ethical issues in medicine, you will also have the opportunity to further develop *your own* view on these important issues.