

Course Syllabus

 Edit

PHIL Ethics Bowl

3540 MWF 4:30-5:20 p.m., Old Main 207

Course Description

Engaging in productive civil discourse is part of what it means to be a responsible citizen, community member, co-worker, and friend. Living a flourishing human life involves engaging with challenging social and moral problems. In this course we will work through the kinds of tricky, significant problems that students will face in their lives going forward. Students will practice crafting arguments and participate in active listening to the arguments of others. They will learn to respond to those with whom they disagree reasonably and respectfully.

Secondary to these more important goals will be preparation for the Wasatch Regional Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl Competition, held this year on November 8th at Weber State University. Students will prepare to debate twelve cases ripped from the headlines. They will work together in teams to answer questions and to respond to opposing arguments.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Construct sound arguments.
2. Apply moral principles, theories, and ideas.
3. Charitably evaluate arguments provided by others.

Instructors

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Course Materials

Course materials will be provided on Canvas as needed.

Course Assignments & Grade Breakdown

1. **Warm-Up Applied Ethics assignment (1%):** Graded pass/fail; must be submitted on time for grade.
2. **Case Packet Review/Voting assignment (1%):** Graded pass/fail; must be submitted on time for grade.
3. **12 Case Workshop Prep assignments (12%; 1% each):** Due the night before case workshop days; graded pass/fail; must be submitted on time for grade; *must ALL be completed to receive a grade in the course.*
4. **12 Individual Script Prep assignments (12%; 1% each):** Due the night before case scrimmage days; graded pass/fail; must be submitted on time for grade; *must ALL be completed to receive a grade in the course.*
5. **2 Team Script Compiling assignments (10%; 5% each):** Graded pass/fail; must be submitted on time for grade; *must both be completed to receive a grade in the course.* **Midterm Team Script due Saturday, October 11 @ 11:59pm; Final Team Script due Thursday, November 6 @ 11:59pm.**
6. **Travel & Logistics Confirmation assignment (10%):** Graded pass/fail; must be submitted on time for grade. **Due Sunday, November 1 @ 11:59pm.**
7. **Wasatch Regional Ethics Bowl Participation (35%)**
8. **4 Normative Ethics Bootcamp prep assignments (4%; 1% each):** Graded pass/fail; must be submitted on time for grade.
9. **Engagement (15%):** Based on a combination of timely assignment completion, class preparation, in-class participation, and overall good faith engagement with the course materials and activities of the Ethics Bowl.
10. **Bonus: 5 Metacognitive/Personal Connection Reflections (5%; 1% each)**



Grade Breakdown:

1% Applied Ethics Assignment
 1% Case Packet Review/Voting assignment
 12% Case Workshop Preps
 12% Individual Script Preps
 10% Team Script Compiling assignments
 10% Travel & Logistics Confirmation
 35% Wasatch Regional Ethics Bowl Participation
 4% Normative Ethics Bootcamp preps
 15% Engagement

100% Provisional Course Grade

5% Bonus for MCR/PCRs


Grade Policy

The following grading standards will be used in this class:

Grade	Range
A	100 % to 93.0%
A-	< 93.0 % to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0 % to 87.0%
B	< 87.0 % to 83.0%
B-	< 83.0 % to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0 % to 77.0%
C	< 77.0 % to 73.0%
C-	< 73.0 % to 70.0%
D+	< 70.0 % to 67.0%
D	< 67.0 % to 60.0%
F	< 59.0 % to 0.0%

Course Schedule

Week 1

- Monday, August 25: Introductions/Course Overview
-  Wednesday, August 27: Team Captain System & Applied Ethics Assignment explained
- Friday, August 29 (Ashfield Out of Town): Applied Ethics Assignment Reviewed; Team Captain Self-Nominations: Anonymous Voting Begins

Week 2

- Monday, September 1: **Labor Day** 🛠️🧰👊 (No Class)
- Wednesday, September 3: **Special Guest via Zoom, Bioethicist Dr. Willy Lensch (Harvard);** Regional Case Packet Published
- Friday, September 5: Team Captains Announced; Regional Case Packet Reviewed
- **Saturday, September 6: Case Review & Voting Assignment (worst 3 cases dropped from competition)**

Week 3

- Monday, September 8: Case 1 Workshop
- Wednesday, September 10: Case 1 Scrimmage (Random Teams: 1st half alphabet vs 2nd: surnames)
- Friday, September 12: Case 2 Workshop
- **Saturday, September 13: Bonus Metacognitive/Personal Connection Reflection**

Week 4

- Monday, September 15: Case 2 Scrimmage (Random Teams: 1st half alphabet vs 2nd: first given names); **Last Day to Add/Drop Class without transcript notation** 🤔🔧
- Wednesday, September 17: Case 3 Workshop
- Friday, September 19: Case 3 Scrimmage (Random Teams: 1st half alphabet vs 2nd: middle names)

Week 5

- Monday, September 22: Team Rosters Finalized; Review of early scrimmages; Teams set expectations about roles and workflow going forward
- Wednesday, September 24: Case 4 Workshop
- Friday, September 26: Case 4 Scrimmage

Week 6

- Monday, September 29: Case 5 Workshop
- Wednesday, October 1: Case 5 Scrimmage
- Friday, October 3: Case 6 Workshop
- **Saturday, October 4: Bonus Metacognitive/Personal Connection Reflection**

Week 7

- Monday, October 6: Case 6 Scrimmage
- Wednesday, October 8: Case 7 Workshop
- **Friday, October 10: Fall Break** 🍂 (No Class)
- **Saturday, October 11: Mid-Term Team Script Compiling Assignment due**

Week 8

- Monday, October 13: Case 7 Scrimmage
- Wednesday, October 15: Case 8 Workshop

- Friday, October 17: Case 8 Scrimmage

Week 9

- Monday, October 20: Case 9 Workshop
- Wednesday, October 22: Case 9 Scrimmage
- Friday, October 24: Case 10 Workshop
- **Saturday, October 25: Bonus Metacognitive/Personal Connection Reflection**

Week 10

- Monday, October 27: Case 10 Scrimmage; **Last day to Withdraw** ("W" on transcript) or **Change to Pass/Fail Option** 🤔🔧
- Wednesday, October 29: Case 11 Workshop
- Thursday, October 30: Team Regional Registration Deadline?
- Friday, October 31: Case 11 Scrimmage: **Ethics Bowl Themed Halloween Dress-Up** 🎃
- **Saturday, November 1: Travel Logistics Confirmation assignment due**

Week 11

- Monday, November 3: Case 12 Workshop
- Wednesday, November 5: Case 12 Scrimmage
- Thursday, November 6: **Final Team Script Compiling Assignment due**
- Friday, November 7: Final Team Script Review
- **Saturday, November 8: Wasatch Regional Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl @ Weber State**

Week 12

- Monday, November 10: **Recovery Day** 🧘🏠🕒🛌; **No Class**
- Wednesday, November 12: Competition Debrief
- Friday, November 14: Normative Ethics Bootcamp
- **Saturday, November 15: Bonus Metacognitive/Personal Connection Reflection**

Week 13

- Monday, November 17: Normative Ethics Bootcamp
- Wednesday, November 19: Normative Ethics Bootcamp
- Friday, November 21: Normative Ethics Bootcamp

Week 14

- Monday, November 24: Wrap-Up Reflection & Discussion
- **Wednesday, November 26 - Friday, November 28 Thanksgiving Holiday** 🦃🍂🇺🇸 (No Classes)

Week 15 (No-Test Week 🚫; Ashfield Out of Town)


- Monday, December 1: No Class
- **?** Wednesday, December 3: No Class
- Friday, December 5: No Class
- **Saturday, December 6: Bonus Metacognitive/Personal Connection Reflection**

Attendance and Excused Absences Policy


Insert course policy content here.

Nonattendance Policy

Students May Be Dropped For Nonattendance

If a student does not attend a class during the first week of the term or by the second class meeting, whichever comes first, the instructor may submit a request to have the student dropped from the course. **(This does not remove responsibility from the student to drop courses which he or she does not plan to attend.)** This option is typically used for classes that are full and the instructor is trying to make a seat available for another student, but may be considered for other courses. Requests must be made during the first 20 percent of the course and will be considered on an individual student basis. Students who are dropped from courses will be notified by the Registrar's Office through their preferred e-mail account (see [USU nonattendance policy](https://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=38&navoid=29183)  (<https://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=38&navoid=29183>)).

Library Services


All USU students attending classes in Logan, at our Regional Campuses, or online can access all databases, e-journals, and e-books regardless of location. Additionally, the library will mail printed books to students, at no charge to them. Students can also borrow books from any Utah academic library. Take advantage of all library services and learn more at <https://libguides.usu.edu/statewide>  (<https://libguides.usu.edu/statewide>).

Online Course Fee

A fee of \$15 per credit is applied to all online courses to support digital technologies and support services required for engaging and effective online learning.

Classroom Behavior

Utah State University supports the principle of freedom of expression for both faculty and students. The University respects the rights of faculty to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede the learning process. Disruptive classroom behavior will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Read

[Student Code Article V Section V-3](https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article5)  [_ \(https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article5\)](https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article5) for more information.

USU Course Policies:

Appropriate Use of Canvas and Other IT Resources  (<https://www.usu.edu/teach/help-topics/teaching-tips/syllabus-resources#appropriate>)

Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibilities  (<https://www.usu.edu/teach/help-topics/teaching-tips/syllabus-resources#freedom>)

Academic Integrity - “The Honor System”  (<https://www.usu.edu/teach/help-topics/teaching-tips/syllabus-resources#integrity>)

Academic Dishonesty  (<https://www.usu.edu/teach/help-topics/teaching-tips/syllabus-resources#dishonesty>)


Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct  (<https://www.usu.edu/teach/help-topics/teaching-tips/syllabus-resources#misconduct>)

Withdrawal Policy and “I” Grade Policy  (<https://www.usu.edu/teach/help-topics/teaching-tips/syllabus-resources#policy>)

Students with Disabilities  (<https://www.usu.edu/teach/help-topics/teaching-tips/syllabus-resources#disabilities>)

Students Who are Pregnant or Have a Pregnancy-related Condition  (<https://www.usu.edu/teach/help-topics/teaching-tips/syllabus-resources#pregnant>)

Inclusive Excellence  (<https://www.usu.edu/teach/help-topics/teaching-tips/syllabus-resources#excellence>)

Grievance Process  (<https://www.usu.edu/teach/help-topics/teaching-tips/syllabus-resources#grievance>)












Full Details for USU Academic Policies and Procedures  (<https://www.usu.edu/teach/help-topics/teaching-tips/syllabus-resources#details>)














Emergency Procedures  (<https://www.usu.edu/teach/help-topics/teaching-tips/syllabus-resources#emergency>)

General Health Protocols  (<https://www.usu.edu/teach/help-topics/teaching-tips/syllabus-resources#general>)





Mental Health  (<https://www.usu.edu/teach/help-topics/teaching-tips/syllabus-resources#mental>)

Course Summary:









Date	Details	Due
Mon Aug 25, 2025	 Cases 2 & 3: "Begun, the Star Wars Have" & "Bring Out Your Dead!" https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892228	due by 11:59pm
Thu Aug 28, 2025	 Doing Applied Ethics https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892250	due by 11:59pm
Sat Sep 6, 2025	 Regional Case Packet Review & Voting https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892491	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 7, 2025	 Case 1 Workshop Prep https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892216	due by 11:59pm
Tue Sep 9, 2025	 Case 1 Individual Script Prep https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892243	due by 11:59pm
Thu Sep 11, 2025	 Case 2 Workshop Prep https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4893552	due by 11:59pm
Sat Sep 13, 2025	 Metacognitive or Personal Connection Reflection 1 https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892412	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 14, 2025	 Case 2 Individual Script Prep https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892249	due by 11:59pm
Tue Sep 16, 2025	 Case 3 Workshop Prep https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4893553	due by 11:59pm
Thu Sep 18, 2025	 Case 3 Individual Script Prep https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892247	due by 11:59pm
 Sep 23, 2025	 Case 4 Workshop Prep https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4893554	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Thu Sep 25, 2025	 Case 4 Individual Script Prep (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892495)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 28, 2025	 Case 5 Workshop Prep (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4893555)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Sep 30, 2025	 Case 5 Individual Script Prep (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892241)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 2, 2025	 Case 6 Workshop Prep (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4893556)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Oct 4, 2025	 Metacognitive or Personal Connection Reflection 2 (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892413)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 5, 2025	 Case 6 Individual Script Prep (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892497)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Oct 7, 2025	 Case 7 Workshop Prep (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4893557)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Oct 11, 2025	 "Aggies" Midterm Team Script Compiling Assignment (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892218)	due by 11:59pm
	 "Big Blue" Midterm Team Script Compiling Assignment (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892419)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 12, 2025	 Case 7 Individual Script Prep (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892244)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Oct 14, 2025	 Case 8 Workshop Prep (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4893559)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 16, 2025	 Case 8 Individual Script Prep (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892238)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 19, 2025	 Case 9 Workshop Prep (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4893560)	due by 11:59pm



Date	Details	Due
Tue Oct 21, 2025	 Case 9 Individual Script Prep (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892242)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 23, 2025	 Case 10 Workshop Prep (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4893561)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Oct 25, 2025	 Metacognitive or Personal Connection Reflection 3 (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892414)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 26, 2025	 Case 10 Individual Script Prep (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892245)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Oct 28, 2025	 Case 11 Workshop Prep (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4893562)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 30, 2025	 Case 11 Individual Script Prep (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892499)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Nov 1, 2025	 Travel & Logistics Confirmation (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892220)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 2, 2025	 Case 12 Workshop Prep (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4893563)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Nov 4, 2025	 Case 12 Individual Script Prep (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892248)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 6, 2025	 "Aggies" Final Team Script Compiling Assignment (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892219)	due by 11:59pm
	 "Big Blue" Final Team Script Compiling Assignment (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892420)	due by 11:59pm
Oct Nov 8, 2025	 Wasatch Regional Ethics Bowl Participation (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892221)	due by 11:59pm



Date	Details	Due
Thu Nov 13, 2025	 Reading Reflection 1 (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892235)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Nov 15, 2025	 Metacognitive or Personal Connection Reflection 4 (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892415)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 16, 2025	 Reading Reflection 2 (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892252)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Nov 18, 2025	 Reading Reflection 3 (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892254)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 20, 2025	 Reading Reflection 4 (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892253)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 24, 2025	 Engagement (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892349)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Dec 6, 2025	 Metacognitive or Personal Connection Reflection 5 (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892416)	due by 11:59pm
	 Reflection on Your Experience (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/786932/assignments/4892251)	