Course syllabi are the documents that describe both the content and format of a course and that clearly lay out the expectations for students and faculty members. Utica College has identified required and optional elements for course syllabi. Where the College has determined appropriate boilerplate language for specific elements of the syllabus, that language is contained in this document. The final pages of this document contain a sample syllabus which is used as an exemplar only and is not meant to dictate a specific layout.

**Required Elements for all Courses**

1. College name
2. Course prefix
3. Course number
4. Course title
5. Semester and year
6. Course credit hours
7. Course prerequisites and co-requisites
8. Contact information for the instructor, including office hours
9. Departmentally approved course learning objectives
10. Course summary description
11. Required and recommended readings
12. Schedule including topics and assignment deadlines
13. Description of graded assignments
14. Breakdown of what percent of the final grade is allocated to each assignment
15. Translation table between numerical grades and letter grades
16. Link to UC’s policy for academic honesty ([click here](#)) or the Intellectual Honesty text included in Part II.
17. Link to UC’s policy for academic accommodations ([click here](#)) or the Special Needs text included in Part II of this document.

**Required Elements for Specific Delivery Modes**

1. Netiquette policy – required for all online courses and for companion shells that contain graded discussion threads or virtual interactions.
2. Class meeting times – required for on-ground and blended courses.
3. Identification of when and where any off-campus experiences will occur – required for courses that contain graded off-campus experiences, including field trips, off-campus assignments, and graded elements that occur outside of the class’ scheduled meeting time.

**Optional Elements**

1. Attendance policy
2. Statements about modifications to the syllabus/schedule and class cancellation
Grading Scale

This is the College’s default grading scale. Faculty members may deviate from this default scale, but must indicate clearly in the syllabus when they do so.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Undergraduate Grading Scale</th>
<th>Graduate Grading Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A  94 – 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A- 90 – 93.99</td>
<td>C+ 77 – 79.99</td>
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Netiquette

"Netiquette" is civil and respectful behavior in electronic communication, including discussion forums, chat services, email, videoconferences, and social media. Such behavior is essential to the integrity of the academic environment and the free exchange of ideas. In order to keep your communication academically professional and appropriate you should avoid:

- Personal attacks. The subject under discussion is always the content of the idea and not the characteristics of the person expressing that idea.
- USING ALL CAPITAL LETTERS IN A SENTENCE, which implies you are yelling at the reader.
- Using many exclamation points to end your sentence as this also implies you are yelling at, or are very upset with, the reader!!!!!!!!
- Writing offensive or sarcastic messages.
- Sending numerous emails with the same point in a short period of time.

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- Never send a message when you are angry or upset. Leave it in draft form, walk away, and review it later after you have calmed down.

Utica College is committed to maintaining an open and free learning environment. Violations of the netiquette policy may result in disciplinary action, including being referred to the Student Judicial Process for violation of the Code of Student Conduct.
Intellectual Honesty
Academic honesty is necessary for the free exchange of ideas and Utica College expects academic honesty from all students.

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional use of other people’s ideas, words, and/or factual information without crediting the source. Cheating refers to both the giving and the receiving of unauthorized assistance in the taking of examinations or in the creation of assigned and/or graded class work.

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Incidents of academic dishonesty are reported to the Senior Associate Provost. The Senior Associate Provost will refer any repeat offense, or any particularly egregious first offence, to the Academic Standards Committee which may recommend a more severe penalty than that imposed by the faculty member.

Special Needs
Any student who has need of special accommodations in this class due to a documented disability should speak with me as soon as possible, preferably within the first two weeks of class. You should also contact the Director of the Office of Learning Services (315-792-3032) in order to determine eligibility for services and to receive an accommodation letter. We will work with you to help you in your efforts to master the course content in an effective and appropriate way.

The Learning Commons
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Academic Assistance
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SmartThinking is a tutoring service that can be found at: http://www.utica.edu/student/development/smart/

Read and Write Gold is software to help you read, write, study, and research and can be found at: https://www.utica.edu/student/development/learning/rwgold/
Class time: MWF 8:30 am (Section A); MWF 9:30 am (Section B)

Office Hours: MWF 12:30 – 1:30 pm; or by appointment

Required Texts for the Course:

John Stuart Mill: Utilitarianism

Immanuel Kant: Grounding For The Metaphysics Of Morals

Cynthia Brincat & Victoria Wike: Morality and The Professional Life

The question "What should I do?" is one of the most constant philosophical problems; it is also the one that affects us most personally. In this course we will look at several different ways of answering it, each offered by a different philosopher, and the reasons for or against each answer. The answers raise further questions: Am I already living by one of these theories? What happens if I live by one of them and are those results desirable? Can I choose between theories? Is one way of life more "true" or "right" than another? These questions are not confined to the abstract world of the philosophy classroom. The work environment generates a number of ethical questions, in the structure of the work world, in the choice of career and in our behavior on the job. In this course we will be looking at the issues raised by work and the light that can be shed on them by philosophy.

Course Goals

By the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Describe the central arguments proposed by the philosophers discussed in this course.
2. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of these arguments.
3. Apply the arguments to contemporary ethical issues.
4. Formulate and justify your own ethical positions.
5. Express your positions clearly in both speech and writing.
Requirements
Philosophy is a subject in which the quality of argumentation counts for more than the specific answers you reach. Being right is not required, being involved is. This is not a class in which you can expect to get away with saying nothing for the whole semester; I will be asking a lot of questions, both about the texts we read and the issues we discuss, and I will expect you to have some response. Philosophy proceeds by discussion as much as by reading or lectures, but good discussion is impossible without preparation and practice. This course will require that you read and respond to all assigned readings, and that you be prepared to answer questions and defend your point of view in class and on paper. It is obviously essential that you come to class, and come to class prepared. Students are expected to possess and use adequate writing skills. All written assignments should be well-written and free of grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors.

Additionally, there is an Engage companion shell that accompanies this class. You will use this shell to submit your papers and to participate in an on-going discussion thread. Each week will have an opening prompt or question, such as: What do the authors we have read have to say on the topic? What do they say that supports or contradicts your point, or each other?

You are expected to submit one post in response to the opening question, and two posts in response to your fellow students. Each post should be 150 words in length, but may be longer. Your posts should add to the discussion by bringing in new ideas, asking additional questions, or synthesizing materials. You also need you to refer to, and cite, materials in the text book or elsewhere. You will be graded based on the originality of your contributions and the significance of your feedback, not simply on a count of how many posts you make.

I have the discussions set up so that you will see the posts by others only after you have made your initial post. Please abide by the College’s Netiquette policy, which is at the end of this syllabus.

Initial posts need to be submitted by Wednesday at 11:59pm Eastern time and response posts by Saturday at 11:59pm Eastern time.

There are three movie nights noted on the syllabus. Your attendance is required at these evenings - they are part of the class.

Evaluation will be on the basis of three take-home tests, the discussion posts, and a final paper.

The three tests are worth 45% of your final grade, the discussion threads are worth 25%, and the final paper is worth 30%. Numerical grades are converted into letter grades in accordance with the College’s default grading scale. i.e.

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<th>94 – 100</th>
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All written work needs to be submitted through the Engage shell using the drop box.

Office of Academic Affairs
Revised July 2019
All work required for class must be submitted on time. Extensions will not be granted. In the case of a documented emergency, some latitude may be permitted; failure to get organized, however, does not constitute an emergency.

The due dates for the three take-home tests and the final paper are on the syllabus and the questions are listed below. You may hand in your paper early, but you may not hand it in late. I will look at early drafts, but I will not write your paper for you. Your paper needs to be in the Engage drop box by 11:59 pm Eastern time on the day it is due.

It is my policy to spend most of a class period when I hand back written work going over the test or paper and talking about what I was looking for and what I found. This should answer most of your questions about why I gave you the grade I did. If you have further questions, my office hours are on the front of this handout and I would urge you to come and see me as soon as possible.

NOTE: If you are forced to be absent because of illness or family emergency you must tell me, your advisor, or the Office of the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs as soon as possible. In the case of a medical emergency I will expect to see a physician's note.

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## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>August 27</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>What is ethical?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>August 29</td>
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### Part 1 – Morality in the Professions

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>MPL 5-24</td>
<td>Defining a Professional</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September 3</td>
<td>MPL 32-38</td>
<td>What Morality Isn’t</td>
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<td>September 7</td>
<td>Discussion and Cases</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>MPL 38-52</td>
<td>What Morality Is</td>
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<td>September 10</td>
<td>MPL 111-130</td>
<td>Moral Theories</td>
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<tr>
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<td>September 12</td>
<td>Discussion and Cases</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>MPL 24-30</td>
<td>Choosing a Profession</td>
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<td>September 17</td>
<td>Principles and Cases</td>
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<tr>
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<td>September 19</td>
<td>Discussion and Cases</td>
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### Part 2 – Morality of Happiness

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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>Return Tests</td>
<td>Movie Night 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>Happiness and Morality</td>
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<td>September 26</td>
<td>Discussion and Cases</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>September 29</td>
<td>Utilitarianism 6-10</td>
<td>Morality and Pleasure</td>
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<td>October 1</td>
<td>Utilitarianism 10-14</td>
<td>Higher Happiness</td>
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<td>October 3</td>
<td>Discussion and Cases</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>October 6</td>
<td>MPL 322-344</td>
<td>Beneficence</td>
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<td>October 8</td>
<td>MPL 404-415</td>
<td>Treating AIDS Patients</td>
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<td>October 10</td>
<td>Discussion and Cases</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>Fall Break</td>
<td>Why Be Moral?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Utilitarianism 7-24</td>
<td>Test 2 Due</td>
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<tr>
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<td>October 17</td>
<td>Discussion and Cases</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>Return Tests</td>
<td>Movie Night 2</td>
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<td>October 22</td>
<td>No Class – Instructor Away</td>
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<td>October 24</td>
<td>No Class – Instructor Away</td>
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### Part 3 – Morality of Duty

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>October 27</td>
<td>Morality as Duty</td>
<td>Why not pleasure?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October 29</td>
<td>GMM 7-12</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October 31</td>
<td>Discussion and Cases</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
November 3  GMM 12-15, 25-26, & 36-37  What is duty?
November 5  MPL 190-212  Respect for persons
November 7  Discussion and Cases

November 10  MPL 252-273  Justice
November 12  MPL 216-222  Story
November 16  Discussion and Cases

November 17  John Rawls I – Handout  Movie Night 3
November 19  John Rawls II – Handout
November 21  Discussion and Cases

November 24  GMM 22-25  Why Be Moral?
November 26  Thanksgiving Break
November 28  Thanksgiving Break

December 1  Topic based on class interests  Test 3 Due
December 3  Topic based on class interests
December 5  Topic based on class interests

December 8  Works in progress review

Final Exam: 9:00 am, Monday December 15th

TEST TOPICS

Test 1 - Due Friday, September 19th
What, according to Brincat and Wike, is a professional. Are they right? If so, why; if not, why not?

Test 2 - Due Friday, October 17th
How would John Stuart Mill evaluate the character Will Lightman (Hugh Grant) in the movie About a Boy? Is Mill right? If so, why; if not, why not?

Test 3 - Due Monday, Dec 1st
How would Immanuel Kant evaluate the actions of Jeffrey Wigand (Russell Crowe) OR Lowell Bregmann (Al Pacino) in the movie The Insider? Is Kant right? If so, why; if not, why not?
FINAL PAPER

For your final paper, you have two options. Whichever option you choose, you need to produce a paper of at least 5 double-spaced pages which must be submitted by 12:00 noon Eastern time on Monday, December 15th.

Option One
What, if anything, makes an action right or wrong? Discuss this question in relation to the events portrayed in the movie Brother's Keeper.

Option Two
Take one ethical dilemma of the sort we have been discussing in class and perform the sort of analysis you have been practicing all semester. The dilemma should be specific; I want to see a particular situation with a good amount of detail. Your paper should be in six parts, covering the details of the situation, the alternative courses of action that are possible, the consequences of each alternative, the ethical principles involved in each alternative, the decision you believe is the right one, and your defense of that decision against the best alternative courses of action.

BE WARNED, this is a fun paper, but not an easy one. START EARLY. I will be happy to read early drafts or discuss possible dilemmas, but I will not be open to doing so 24 hrs before the paper is due.

This paper is the equivalent of your final exam so there can be no extensions.

Paper Layout

1. All work must be typed. Handwritten work will not be accepted.
2. Text should be double-spaced except for footnotes and quotations. The main body of text should have reasonable margins: an inch to an inch and a half, left and right.
3. Long quotations (2 lines or more) should be single-spaced, indented from the left margin by about half an inch and flush with the right margin. Quotations should be identified in a footnote or end note.
4. You may follow any common format for references, but be consistent. Excessive noting is a vice to be avoided. All quotations must be noted but notes should be added only to substantial ideas within a text which do not originate with you or where you have tangential but relevant additional thoughts. If you have more than two notes in a paragraph of text you probably have too many.
5. All pages must be numbered.
6. You must title your essay. You may include a title page or you may just put the title on the top of the first page of text.
7. Your name should appear ONLY at the end of the paper.
8. Include a word count at the end of your document.