

PHIL 210 Assessment: Ethics Committee Responses (30%)

Throughout this course, you will work with a group of your peers, assuming the role of an Ethics Committee. This committee will meet six times throughout this course to discuss issues and then create a summary report. Submit your response to your professor via the Moodle assignment dropbox.

Each report is worth 5%, for a total of 30% of your course grade. You will complete a Ethics Committee Response for Units 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10 (5% each).

Grading Rubric:

Your group assignment will be marked according to the following criteria:

Criteria	Excellent	Average	Needs improvement
Identification of issues and implications (20 points max)	Excellent explanation of issues and implications. (20 points)	Average explanation of issues and implications. (9 to 19 points)	Inadequate explanation of issues and implications. (0 to 8 points)
Appropriate justification of approach and expected outcome (30 points max)	Choice of appropriate justification of approach and expected outcome. (25 to 30 points)	Some inconsistencies or not all parts of the required answer. (16 to 24 points)	Major issues with the reasoning or explanation of outcome, or no reason given. (0 to 15 points)
Reasonable explanation of opinion and perspectives (20 points max)	Well-written evaluation of opinions. (17 to 20 points)	Limited explanation of own opinion on current issues in managing change. (10 to 16 points)	Minimal or non-existent explanation of own opinion on current issues in managing change. (0 to 9 points)
Sufficient length (10 points max)	Report of more than 500 words. (10 points)	Report is less than 500 words. (6 to 9 points)	Minimal report. (0 to 5 points)
Layout and writing (20 points max)	Accurate grammar and spelling, structured layout. (17 to 20 points)	Some grammar and/or writing issues. (9 to 16 points)	Major writing or spelling issues; layout not appropriate. (0 to 8 points)
			TOTAL

Ethics Committee Questions

Unit 2: (5%)

After completing this unit, including the learning activities, you are asked to analyze a case from the perspectives of a nihilist, moral subjectivist, moral objectivist, free will advocate, determinist, and compatibilist.

You will work with a group of your peers, assuming the role of an Ethics Committee. This committee will meet six times throughout this course to discuss issues and then post a summary report online. Each report is worth 5%, for a total of 30% of your course grade.

For this first Ethics Committee meeting, you will discuss the following case:

You discover your supervisor has been involved in an unethical activity, as she has been padding her expense account with substantial amounts. Your supervisor knows you know what she has done. Are you complicit? What do you do? Should you report this unethical activity? What would be the consequences for you and for your superior? From the perspective of a nihilist, moral subjectivist, moral objectivist, free will advocate, determinist, and compatibilist, what might you do?

As you meet with your Ethics Committee this week, discuss the case above and take notes as a group. In your response, work with key terms and concepts from your readings. (eg. *If I was aI would say...about this case.*)

Submit your report on Moodle by the end of the week.

Unit 3: (5%)

After completing this unit, including the learning activities, you are asked to analyze Plato's story of the Ring of Gyges from various perspectives. You will work again with your Ethics Committee group to discuss the case and then post a summary report online.

For this Ethics Committee meeting, analyze Plato's story of the Ring of Gyges (from the text reading, p. 88) and state how his key question, "What would you do?" might be answered by an ethical egoist, a psychological egoist, an advocate of self-interest morality, and a kin altruist. Then explain why you think each would answer as they do. (e.g. *If I was aI would say... Here is why.*)

As you meet with your Ethics Committee this week, discuss the story and take notes. In your response, work with key terms and concepts from your readings. (eg. *If I was aI would say...about this case.*) Refer to the **grading criteria** in the Assessments section of this course. Submit your report on Moodle by the end of the week.

Unit 4: (5%)

After completing this unit, including the learning activities, you are asked to meet with your Ethics Committee and discuss the following:

For the following ethical theories, Justice as fairness, the categorical imperative, and utilitarianism, explain the answer you think an advocate of each position would give to the following question:

Should the government provide housing and a food allowance for homeless people?

As you meet with your Ethics Committee this week, discuss the question and provide some of the key reasoning you think each perspective would use in coming to what they believe to be a just solution. In other words, the utilitarian would point out. . . and say. . . , etc.

In your response, work with key terms and concepts from your readings. (eg. *If I was aI would say...about this case.*)

Refer to the **grading criteria** in the Assessments section of this course. Submit your report on Moodle by the end of the week.

Unit 5: (5%)

After completing this unit, including the learning activities, you are asked to meet with your Ethics Committee and complete the following:

Produce a one-page report stating, first, what you believe to be the moral **basis/foundation** for freedom of speech, and, second, any **examples** where free speech should be limited. Thirdly, provide your **rationale** for each example of a limitation and show how it still fits with your stated foundation for free speech.

As you collaborate on this assignment, be sure to refer to the **grading criteria** in the Assessments section of this course. Submit your report on Moodle by the end of the week.

Unit 6: (5%)

After completing this unit, including the learning activities, you are asked to analyze a case with your Ethics Committee.

This week, your committee has been asked to discuss a problem going on at the local high school. There have been recent reports of date rape occurring, and parents and school leaders are deeply concerned.

Discuss how and why date rape can lead to difficult moral dilemmas. How is date rape different from any other kind of rape and what are the complicating factors added by the introduction of alcohol into the situation? What concepts or principles could provide help in solving these dilemmas? In your responses, work with key terms and concepts from the course reading.

At the end of your discussion, come up with some key steps which could help the school develop a policy on sexual consent.

As you meet with your Ethics Committee this week, discuss the case above and take notes as a group. Refer to the **grading criteria** in the Assessments section of this course. Submit your report on Moodle by the end of the week.

Unit 10: (5%)

After completing this unit, including the learning activities, you are asked to meet with your Ethics Committee one more time and discuss the following:

A local government task force on foreign aid has contacted your Ethics committee and asked for your recommendations concerning the question of whether to raise local taxes to send food and clothes to mud slide victims in South America. As a committee, begin by brainstorming about the basis provided by Peter Singer for our moral obligation to provide assistance to others in need.

In your discussion, include issues such as the relevance (or irrelevance) of the physical proximity of the recipients of our aid, the traditional distinction between duty and charity, and the place of population control. Then, drawing upon Dambisa Moyo's article, discuss ways of critiquing Singer's argument for this moral obligation. Finally, as a committee, create a 250-400 word report with your considered recommendations for the committee.

As you meet with your Ethics Committee this week, discuss the case above and take notes as a group. Refer to the **grading criteria** in the Assessments section of this course. Submit your report on Moodle by the end of the week.