	<b>Course Number:</b> Contemporary Ethical Issues PHIL 242C-FZZ
	<b>Hours: Lecture -Credits - 3</b>
	<b>Prerequisite(s):</b>
	<b>Term:</b> January 20- March 14, 2026
	<b>Faculty:</b> Christine McClure, MA, MA
	<b>Faculty Accessibility:</b> On-line and through e-mail
	<b>cmclure@ccsnh.edu</b>
	<b>Phone:</b>

<b>Syllabus Table of Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Course Description</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Learning Outcomes</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Acquired Knowledge: .....	2
Acquired Skills: .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
<b>Course Materials and Resources</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Textbooks, Required:.....	2
Materials, Required:.....	2
Software, Required:.....	2
Resources, Suggested: .....	2
<b>Canvas Orientation</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Available Technical Support.....	2
<b>Instructional Approach</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Assessment of Learning</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Assignments/Assessments .....	3
Grading Criteria and Grade Calculation .....	4
<b>Course Schedule</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Course Notices</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Faculty Email Response Time .....	5
Posting of Grades .....	5
Attendance Policy .....	5
Late Assignment Policy.....	5
<b>Academic Affairs Notice</b> .....	<b>5</b>

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## Course Description

This course is a philosophical examination of major contemporary ethical issues. Topics may include biomedical ethics, business ethics, environmental ethics, human sexuality, and ethics related to life-and-death decisions. The emphasis is on acquiring the philosophical skills necessary to guide self and others in the process of ethical decision making. Cases are used for study and discussion. Available in honors format.

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## Learning Outcomes

[My philosophy of learning in higher education is focusing on theory and concepts while applying to real-world applications. Each student brings experiences and understandings that are important to the overall learning environment in class. Together as a class we can optimize learning experiences. We all learn in many of the same ways and in different ways. This brings a classroom environment to a critical understanding of the world around us.](#)

### Learning Outcomes

- Explain the basic meaning of morality and the importance of moral reasoning in society.
- Identify, describe, and differentiate major ethical theories and moral philosophies.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the principles and functions of moral arguments, recognition of invalid arguments, and the benefits to be gained from respectful engagement of those with differing views.
- Apply ethical theories to contemporary issues on a social and personal level.

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## Course Materials and Resources

Textbooks, Required: **Free Open Educational Resource. Here is the link:**

[https://human.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Philosophy/Introduction\\_to\\_Ethics\\_\(Levin\\_et\\_al.\)](https://human.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Philosophy/Introduction_to_Ethics_(Levin_et_al.))

Materials, Required: **Canvas access on personal computers.**

Software required: **Office 365 (free to all students which is found on the NHTI website through email). This product must be downloaded to your computer. Office 365 provides students with Microsoft Word, Power Point, Excel, Email, and Access.**

Resources, Suggested:


Textbooks, materials, and software are available online at [eFollet](#) unless specified by your instructor.

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## Canvas Orientation

If this is your first-time using Canvas at CCSNH, please complete the [Canvas student orientation](#). This orientation offers the opportunity to familiarize you with navigating and using Canvas.

Available Technical Support

If you need help navigating this course, explore the Canvas [Student Guide](#). The Student Guide, Chat, and Phone offer helpful information and are always found by clicking on the  help button on the bottom-right side of every page in Canvas.

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## Assessment of Learning

### Assignments/Assessments

- Sandel's Video Discussion Boards: Each week you will watch a video selection from the Harvard Justice Series featuring Dr. Sandel, professor of philosophy from Harvard University. There is a link to the correct Sandel's Video Series for each discussion board. You will be graded on the amount of participation and on the quality of your submissions. Substance matters. You may participate at any time during the week, but you must do it during the week which runs from Sunday at midnight to Sunday at midnight. Post a response of your own to the prompt and reply to two of your classmates. Remember your "netiquette" when posting on the discussion board. (See 'netiquette policy on the syllabus and under "policies".)
- Moral Decision essays- You will write two moral decision essays for the class. Each paper will be 3-5 pages long excluding the cover, reference, and abstract pages (written in APA or MLA format). (See in Microsoft word the template for either MLA or APA.) This will guide you well in your writing. Choose a moral decision you have made in your lifetime so far (You will write two of these papers. You will be choosing two different moral decisions). Write an introduction paragraph or two detailing the moral decision. Using the textbook provides ethical theories that can be applied to the moral decision you have made and chosen for the paper. Provide the arguments in the body of the paper. You can find other resources to cite within the paper in addition to the textbook. Provide a reference (APA) or work cited (MLA) page. In conclusion, provide a critical thinking analysis of the reason why you made the decision despite the grounds of being moral or not. Be sure to use spell check for grammar corrections.

1. Discussion Boards (70%)
2. Three Moral Decision Essays (30%)

Grading Criteria and Grade Calculation

Category	% of Final Course Grade
Discussion Boards	70
Two Moral Decision Essays	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Grading Schema	
A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	59 and below

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## Course Schedule

This syllabus is to be used as a guide; it contains information about the course, how it will be taught, what will be required of students and assessment methods that will be used. All information is subject to change at any time.

<b>Weeks &amp; Dates</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Activities/Assignments</b>	<b>Assignment Due Dates</b>
<b>Week 1</b> 1/20-25, 2026	<i>Sandel Series</i> <i>Video</i>	Discussion Board 1 Welcome and Introductions!	1/25
<b>Week 2</b> 1/26-2/1, 2026	<i>Sandel Series</i> <i>Video</i>	Discussion Board 2	2/1
<b>Week 3</b> 2/2-2/8, 2026	<i>Sandel Series</i> <i>Video</i>	Discussion Board 3	2/8
<b>Week 4</b> 2/9-2/15, 2026	<i>Sandel Series</i> <i>Video</i>	Discussion Board 4 First Moral Decision Essay Due 9/21	2/15
<b>Week 5</b> 2/16-2/22 2026	<i>Sandel Series</i> <i>Video</i>	Discussion Board 5	2/22
<b>Week 6</b> 2/23-3/1, 2026	<i>Sandel Series</i> <i>Video</i>	Discussion Board 6 Second Moral Decision Essay Due 10/8.	3/1
<b>Week 7</b> 3/2-3/8, 2026	<i>Sandel Series</i> <i>Video</i>	Discussion Board 7	3/8
<b>Week 8</b> 3/9-3/13, 2026	<i>Sandel Series</i> <i>Video</i>	Discussion Board 8 Final Reflection Discussion Board due	3/13

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## Course Notices

### Faculty Email Response Time

You can expect I will respond through college email within 24-48 hours. If you do not hear from me, please reply.

### Posting of Grades

Assignments are due by midnight on Sundays of each week. I will expect a week from that date to return grade and feedback to students.

### Attendance Policy

According to NHTI policy, attendance will be reported and recorded regularly. For online classes students are expected to participate in all assignments.

### Late Assignment Policy

I will accept late assignments only if I receive an email communication.

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## Academic Affairs Notice

Students are responsible for reading the [Academic Affairs Notices](#). NOTE: These are the same for each course at NHTI and are updated each semester.

## NHTI Academic Affairs Notices – Spring 2026 [[Academic Affairs notices](#)]

This notice must be included in all course syllabi.

Students must meet all academic policy requirements and are expected to acquaint themselves with these policies by visiting the college's website. Full details are available on the [NHTI website](#).

### Course Drop/Withdrawal and Refund

A full-semester course must be dropped by notifying the Registrar's Office or the Academic Advising Center prior to the end of the 14th calendar day of the semester to receive a 100% refund of tuition, less non-refundable fees. After that time, the student may submit an Add/Drop Form to the Registrar's Office or Advising Center, but no refund will be granted. Ceasing to attend a class does not constitute an official drop or withdrawal and may result in a failing grade. Officially dropping a course prior to the completion of 60% of its scheduled duration will result in a grade of W. After that time, a grade of WP or WF will be issued depending on the student's standing at the time of the drop. Dates are prorated for courses offered in an alternative format; contact the Registrar's Office or Advising Center for details. Classes that run for less than the full semester have 7 calendar days from the start of the alternative semester to drop with a full refund. See the [NHTI Dropping Classes/Withdrawing Policy](#).

Dates for the Spring 2026 full semester are:

#### Full Semester Courses (1/20/2026–5/9/2026)

- Last day to drop with full refund: February 2, 2026
- Last day to withdraw with grade of W: March 26, 2026

#### First-Half Semester Courses (1/20/2026–3/14/2026)

- Last day to drop with full refund: January 26, 2026
- Last day to withdraw with grade of W: February 20, 2026

#### Second-Half Semester Courses (3/23/2026–5/9/2026)

- Last day to drop with full refund: March 30, 2026
- Last day to withdraw with grade of W: April 20, 2026

### Classroom Etiquette

Academic integrity is of primary importance in the classroom, whether the classroom be face-to-

face or online. Students and faculty are responsible for creating and maintaining an environment that supports an effective learning community. It is therefore imperative that students and faculty demonstrate mutual respect. Inappropriate behavior may compromise the learning and performance of all students. Such inappropriate behaviors include but are not limited to: late arrivals/early departures; loud or prolonged side conversations; use of cell phones; computers (other than for legitimate academic use); music devices; and use of derogatory or vulgar language. All students are expected to abide by the [Student Code of Conduct](#) as published in the [Student Handbook](#) subject to sanctions as described therein for any violations.

## Classroom Safety and Emergency Protocols

NHTI values the safety of its community members and guests. The [NHTI Campus Safety Department](#) encourages the reporting of all crimes, conduct concerns, or suspicious activity to the NHTI Campus Safety Department Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at 603-230-4042, and after hours and on weekends on the Emergency Line at 603-224-3287. You may [report non-emergency information online](#). If an emergency requires police, fire, or medical response, students are encouraged to contact 911 first and then contact the NHTI Campus Safety Department. Emergency information will be provided to the college community via email, phone, and text through the NHTI Alerts program RAVE. Ensure your information is current in [RAVE](#) by logging on. NHTI's Campus Safety Department provides its [Annual Security and Fire Safety Reports and information on Campus Policies, Emergency Response, and Crime Prevention](#). To aid in emergency response situations, all NHTI classrooms and offices have fire evacuation plans posted by the door and emergency cards at teacher stations. Emergency cards contain emergency response information along with first aid box/AED locations on campus. Students are asked to familiarize themselves with these items; questions or concerns can be directed to the [NHTI Campus Safety Department](#).

## Process to Address a Classroom Concern

NHTI is committed to creating and maintaining a positive and productive learning environment for all students. Students who have concerns about any aspect of the classroom experience should first discuss the concern with the course instructor. Discussions may be held in person, via telephone, or through the CCSNH email system. In the event that discussion with the course instructor does not resolve the issue, the concern should then be brought to the appropriate [department chair](#). Only after a student has been unable to resolve the issue through discussion with their course instructor and department chair should a student bring concerns to the vice president of Academic and Workforce Education.

Where the concern about the classroom experience involves discrimination on the basis of unlawful criteria including race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, or veteran status, as defined under applicable law, the student should also report the conduct as follows:

Report harassment based on sex, sexual orientation, marital status, or gender identity or expression to the college's Title IX coordinator and/or the [NHTI Campus Safety Department](#) and follow the process in [Student Affairs Policy 730.04](#).

Report harassment based on race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status to the [NHTI Campus Safety Department](#), NHTI Student conduct coordinator, or, if an employee is involved, the NHTI Human Resource office. Where the concern involves a grade appeal, the student must follow the process and timeline outlined in the following [Academic Affairs policy](#).

## Civil Rights and Equity Issues (Discrimination and Harassment)

NHTI is committed to creating a professional setting for its students and employees and a community atmosphere grounded in mutual respect, dignity, and integrity. In light of these objectives, NHTI prohibits all manner of discrimination on the basis of unlawful criteria including race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, and veteran status, as defined under applicable law.

The college is sensitive to the concerns an individual may have in coming forward with a complaint regarding discrimination. The grievance-reporting procedures outlined in the Student and Employee Handbooks are designed to provide a safe, confidential, and supportive environment in which an individual may discuss concerns. Retaliation of any kind against anyone making an allegation of discrimination, anyone involved in the investigation, or anyone involved in the decision regarding corrective and/or disciplinary action is prohibited and will result in disciplinary action against the retaliator. Any NHTI student, employee, or visitor who has observed, is aware of, or has been a victim of discriminatory or harassing behavior while engaged in an NHTI-sponsored activity should report such behavior to the correlating contact:

- Report discrimination or harassment based on sex, sexual orientation, marital status, or gender identity or expression to the college's Title IX coordinator or the [NHTI Campus Safety Department](#) by email or by phone: 603-230-4042, and follow the process in [Student Affairs Policy 730.04](#).
- Report discrimination or harassment based on race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status using the grievance process outlined in the [Civil Rights/Equity Grievance Procedures](#) page on NHTI's website.

For complaints against another student, contact:

- The NHTI Campus Safety Department by email at [nhticampussafety@ccsnh.edu](mailto:nhticampussafety@ccsnh.edu) or 603-230-4042
- The NHTI student conduct coordinator by email at [nhtistudentconduct@ccsnh.edu](mailto:nhtistudentconduct@ccsnh.edu) or 603-271-6484 x4292

For complaints against an employee or college vendor, contact:

- The NHTI Campus Safety Department by email at [nhticampussafety@ccsnh.edu](mailto:nhticampussafety@ccsnh.edu) or 603-230-4042
- The NHTI Human Resource Office, located in Sweeney Hall, at 603-230-4002

## Reporting Sexual Misconduct, Violence, or Exploitation

At NHTI, every attempt is made to create and maintain a safe learning environment in which students feel able to share opinions and related life experiences in classroom discussions, in written work, and in meetings with professors. To the greatest extent possible, this information will be kept private. However, staff and faculty have a legal obligation to report information concerning sexual misconduct, violence, and exploitation of individuals, per federal statutes,

New Hampshire State laws including NHRSA 188:H, and in compliance with established policies and procedures at NHTI. If a student has been subjected to sexual misconduct, violence, or exploitation, we encourage them to contact:

- NHTI Title IX coordinator Shawna Bateman by email at [sbateman@ccsnh.edu](mailto:sbateman@ccsnh.edu) or 603-230-3595
- The NHTI Campus Safety by email at [nhticampussafety@ccsnh.edu](mailto:nhticampussafety@ccsnh.edu) or 603-230-4042
- Crisis Center of Central New Hampshire at 866-841-6229, a confidential resource

Additional information including resources, can be found online at:

- NHTI: [Title IX resources](#)]
- [New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence](#)
- uSafeUS safety application [<https://usafeus.org>]

## Academic Center for Excellence

The Academic Center for Excellence (ACE), located in the Learning Commons Library, provides free academic assistance to all NHTI students. ACE offers peer and professional tutoring in accounting, A&P, biological sciences, math, chemistry, and physics, among many additional subjects. The Writing Center and Study Solutions Lab, located within ACE, offer assistance with writing, reading, and study skills. For more information, call 603-230-4027 or the [NHTI ACE](#) page on NHT's website.

## Accessibility Services

(<https://www.nhti.edu/accessibility-services>)

In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991, students with disabilities are eligible to receive accommodations and services to ensure equal access to classes and programs. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the coordinator of Accessibility Services as soon as possible for a confidential discussion regarding their learning needs and the process for requesting reasonable accommodations in the classroom. Once Accessibility Services has approved services, the student must show the Letter of Accommodation to their instructor. Accommodations are not provided retroactively. Accessibility Services is located in ACE or by email at [nhtiaccessibilityservices@ccsnh.edu](mailto:nhtiaccessibilityservices@ccsnh.edu).

## CCSNH Classroom Recording Policy

As per CCSNH policy: "Students are not permitted to record any class lectures, activities, or discussion using electronic video, still photo, or audio recording unless the student first obtains permission from the instructor. If the recording is made as a recommended, reasonable accommodation or modification for a student with a disability, permission shall not be unreasonably withheld." To view the entire policy, visit the [System Policies webpage](#) and select the System Policies for Academic Affairs (section 600).

## Cross-Cultural Education and ESOL

[Cross-cultural education services and English for Speakers of Other Languages \(ESOL\)](#) provide tools, strategies, and materials necessary for multilingual students and their instructors. Services

include advising and support in settling into college and community life. Prospective students may test to allow for appropriate academic recommendations and course placement and registration. ESOL courses are offered for college credit throughout the year. An academic transition process allows students to take ESOL courses and required courses in their chosen program simultaneously. One-on-one and open-group tutoring is offered through ACE. Programs that assist members of the international, immigrant, and host communities are offered to better support cross-cultural communication. Call 603-230-4055 for more information.

## Plagiarism/Cheating Policy

As stated in the [NHTI Student Handbook](#), honesty is expected of all NHTI students. In academic matters, this includes the submission of work that clearly indicates its source. Dishonest acts include cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, the use of any unauthorized assistance from other persons or technologies in taking quizzes, tests, or exams or in the preparation and completion of class assignments; dependence upon the aid of resources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the CCSNH colleges' faculty, staff, or students; or knowingly providing unauthorized assistance to another for the purpose of providing unfair advantage to the recipient in the completion of course assessments/assignments. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use (intentional or unintentional) by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in providing term papers or other academic materials via direct sale, barter, or other means. Cheating and plagiarism are serious disciplinary matters subject to the same penalties and procedures as other NHTI disciplinary matters. Penalties levied in proven cases of cheating or plagiarism may include the issuance of a grade of AF (which may lead to delay of graduation), suspension or dismissal from a program/the college, or other sanctions as deemed appropriate.

## Emergency Closure, Early Closure, and Delayed Start of Classes

NHTI values the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and faculty. The college notifies students and employees of emergencies through college email accounts using NHTI Alerts through the Rave Mobile Safety system. Students are encouraged to sign up to receive emergency notifications by text or personal email accounts. Sign up at [Get Rave](#). An announcement will be made on [WMUR.com](#) and will be posted NHTI's website and social media accounts.

In the event of an emergency that requires NHTI to close and/or cancel classes for a day or more, instructors will post a message in Canvas and may use additional means to communicate to students what effect this will have on the class, such as a Zoom meeting, completing a discussion board assignment, or changing the due date for an assignment. NHTI instructors understand that students may experience power and/or internet outages and will work with students to ensure class needs are met.

If circumstances require NHTI to have a delayed opening, students should be prepared to begin their school day with whatever required activity would normally be occurring at the announced opening time. For example, if a 2-hour delay is announced, and a student is scheduled for a class

that normally meets from 8:00-10:50 a.m., the student should come to that class at 10 a.m. for the remaining 50 minutes of class; classes that are normally completed before 10 a.m. would be cancelled.

If circumstances require NHTI to close early, students should participate in required activities until the closing time. For example, if NHTI closes at 4 p.m. and a student has a class that runs 3-5 p.m., the student should attend the class until 4 p.m.

## Grade Reporting

Faculty submit grades electronically to the Registrar's Office at the end of each final exam period. Final grades are not mailed to students. It is the student's responsibility to review their final grades via the Student Information System. Students who receive an I (Incomplete) should coordinate with the instructor to complete the remaining coursework as soon as possible. Unresolved grades will convert to an F automatically at the end of the third week of the following semester. An incomplete will place a student's financial aid status on hold for the subsequent semester.

## Student Athletes

NHTI values its student athletes and wants them to be successful both on and off the field/court. Student athletes participating on any NHTI-sponsored team must provide their instructors documentation from the NHTI Athletic Department confirming their participation, as well as a schedule of practices and games, during the first week of the semester or immediately upon joining a team (if joining after the semester begins) to receive consideration for excused absences, make-up testing, or other related accommodations. This documentation must be presented in advance of special requests. Participation on an NHTI athletic team does not excuse any student from compliance with course requirements. Faculty are not required to excuse students from class or lab to attend practice sessions, and there may be circumstances (such as clinical requirements) under which athletes may not be excused for games, though every effort will be made to accommodate the schedules of student athletes who work responsibly with their instructors.

## Student Email

Official CCSNH email accounts are created at the time of course registration or program acceptance. This is the only email address that will be recognized by NHTI for any required correspondence in NHTI-controlled courses and serves as the official account for all electronic communication with the college. This ensures all students are able to comply with the email-based requirements specified by faculty. Students are responsible for checking their official student email regularly and reading all college-related communications. The email system is college property. All messages composed, sent, or received on the email system are and remain the property of CCSNH/NHTI. The CCSNH email system is not to be used to create or forward offensive messages. CCSNH is not responsible for the handling of email by outside vendors.

## Academic Credit

NHTI awards academic credit in accordance with the policy of CCSNH, which equates a credit hour to one hour\* of lecture per week for 15-16 weeks\*\*; 2-3 hours of lab per week for 15-16 weeks\*\*; 3 hours of practicum per week for 15-16 weeks\*\*; 3-6 internship hours per week for 15-16 weeks\*\*; or 3-5 clinical hours per week for 15-16 weeks\*\*. In awarding academic credit, NHTI faculty create instructional plans, activities, and assessments with the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 2-3 hours outside of class per week per credit (\*\*) in related course activities (completing assignments, studying, etc.).

\*One instructional hour equals 50 minutes.

\*\*All per-week hours should be prorated accordingly for alternative-length semesters. For example, a course that meets for 3 hours per week in a 16-week semester and requires 6-9 hours per week of additional work outside the classroom would meet for 6 hours per week and require 12-18 hours per week of additional study time when offered in an 8-week format.