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Live Classes

# Philosophy and Ethics

Dr. J. Brian Huffling

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Syllabus

2025-2026



## Personal Note from Instructor:

Philosophy is incredibly important and is even unavoidable. C. S. Lewis said good philosophy must exist in order for bad philosophy to be answered. Many of the most important issues we deal with are inherently philosophical, such as God's existence, the problem of evil and suffering, morality, and even how we interpret the Bible.

After laying a solid foundation in philosophy, we will explore theories and issues in ethics, which will prepare students to be able to think more clearly, critically, and be more informed about what they will face in their lives, such as abortion, end of life ethics, sexual ethics, and more.

## Recommended Grade Level:

7-12

## Prerequisites:

None.

## Live Lecture Date & Time:

Mondays 1:45-2:45 ET

*NOTE: The instructor does not require attendance of the live lectures but highly recommends students attend as many of the live lectures as possible to take advantage of live Q&A. Lectures are recorded and posted on the course Canvas page under the associated week and module. If you miss a lecture, please watch the recording. You can also use the recording for review as you prepare for the online exam.*

## Description:

Philosophy and Ethics introduces students to some of the most influential and consequential ideas and thinkers in these fields. Students will learn about the general history of ideas, how to evaluate them, and how to think critically and defend their faith. Students will also learn about the major moral theories and issues in ethics, how to navigate such topics, and think through difficult ethical situations.

## Required Class Materials:

Sproul, R. C. *The Consequences of Ideas: Understanding the Concepts that Shaped Our World*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2009.

Rae, Scott B. *Moral Choices: An Introduction to Ethics*. 4th ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018.

## Recommended Class Materials:

Blackwell, Simon. *Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy*.

## Course Topics:

This course will cover topics such as the nature of philosophy, logic, the question of God's existence, theories about existence, knowledge, and moral theories and issues (abortion, biological ethics, sexual ethics, etc.).

## Assignment Structure:

The core of the class will be lecture and discussion-based, supplemented by reading and homework, such as quizzes and exams.

## Grading:

The course assessments include a statement of reading completion, quizzes, and exams.

Reading: 25%

Quizzes: 25%

Exams: 50%

## Due Dates and Late Policy:

The assignments are due the week after they are assigned. However, understanding the nature of homeschoolers and their schedules, I do not take off for late work. I just ask that they not get too far behind and try to be caught up before the Christmas break and the end of the school year.

## Student Conduct:

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Students are expected to do their own work and not utilize the internet or AI unless explicitly allowed.

### **Class Behavior**

My classes are slightly informal, and I encourage and even provoke discussion. I just ask that students be respectful to each other and me and stay on topic.

## Instructor Availability for Questions:

I am available via email ([drhuffling@apologia.com](mailto:drhuffling@apologia.com)) and can also meet over the phone or Zoom upon request.