

Feedback Report

UCA Core Council Assessment sub-committee

December 2018

Re: Review of LD Core Responsible Living Course Offerings

Thank you for providing the information requested by the sub-committee. The assessment sub-committee is diligently reviewing all courses in the Lower Division Core Responsible Living area to assure that our students are receiving a shared, common experience across the university as regards this Core competency. Your participation is greatly appreciated in this endeavor. The sub-committee would like to provide you with this feedback report as an informational item. If you have questions, concerns, or comments please direct those to the Director of the UCA Core, Jake Held ([jmheld@uca.edu](mailto:jmheld@uca.edu))

Course Prefix and Number: PHIL 2325

Course Title: Contemporary Moral Problems

**Syllabus:** Any syllabus for a course in the UCA Core must include language indicating the courses relative position within the UCA Core. The required boilerplate language can be located here: <http://uca.edu/academicaffairs/publications-information/>

**Lower Division Core standards:** Does 50% of the course content directly align to the Core outcomes for the goal under which the course assesses? (NB: This is calculated by considering course objectives, readings, lecture/discussion, and assignments as indicated by the course syllabus and provided work.)

The material provided for PHIL 2325 was more than sufficient in order for the sub-committee to make an informed evaluation in this regard.

PHIL 2325 falls under Goal A (Ethics):

**Ethical Awareness:** Awareness of the core beliefs that consciously or unconsciously influence one's own and others' ethical conduct and reasoning. Core beliefs can reflect one's environment, religion, culture, or training. A person may or may not choose to act on their core beliefs.

**Ethical Issue Recognition:** Recognition of various ethical issues and their interconnections in complex contexts (i.e., the obvious and subtle connections between/among the sub-parts or situational conditions of a scenario that bring two or more ethical dilemmas/issues into the problem; e.g., relationship of production of corn as part of the climate change issue).

**Ethical Application:** The application of different ethical theories (e.g., utilitarian, natural law, virtue) or ethical concepts (rights, justice, duty) to analyze the ethical issues of a problem.

The full rubric can be located here: <http://uca.edu/core/assessment/>

As a lower division Core course, this course ought to provide students with the foundational skills necessary to begin developing the outcomes indicated under the rubric. In order to provide such an experience it is necessary that students be routinely exposed to these ideas and offered multiple opportunities to develop these skills.

PHIL 2325 clearly provides ample experiences for the students to both be introduced to all areas of the rubric as well as repeated opportunities to develop and reinforce these skills. The only point the committee found to be lacking were opportunities to demonstrate higher levels of competency when it came to ethical application. Please see "Improvement" below.

**Alignment:** Does the course as a whole align well to the Core outcomes for the goal under which it is assessed?

Yes, see above.

**Improvement:** Suggestions for how the course might optimize its role within the UCA Core.

As noted above, both the committee and the instructor of record (Dr. Jacob Held) recognized that the assignment chosen for assessment did not prompt the student to apply ethical theory to a particular problem and formulate and defend a position. Thus, the assignment chosen did not offer an opportunity to reflect the students' abilities with respect to the third outcome of Goal A, Ethical Application. Thus, simple assignment design and alignment could correct this problem and assure that students were offered the opportunity to demonstrate more accurately what they knew and were able to do in terms of ethical reasoning.

**Questions/Concerns of the sub-committee:**

N/A