



SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHING AND ASSESSING ETHICAL REASONING STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

This document contains suggestions about how you can teach and assess this skill. You can use any method to teach and assess the objectives that you think is appropriate for your discipline and pedagogy.

ETHICAL REASONING

Ethical Reasoning: Apply ethical principles and codes of conduct to decision making.

OBJECTIVE 1: Identify Ethical Issues - Recognizes ethical issues when presented in a complex, multilayered (gray) context and can recognize interrelationships among the issues.

EXAMPLES OF TEACHING METHODS (what YOU will do to teach students)

1. Read through a case with an ethical dilemma. Orally discuss the case with the students ensuring they understand and try to empathize with all sides of the issue. Point out the morally relevant features of the example and all, humans and non-humans, who are affected by the case.
2. Assign a reading or video that explains all the morally relevant factors of an ethically complicated situation.

EXAMPLES OF ASSESSMENT MEASURES (how students demonstrate what they have learned)

1. Paper, short essay question, exam question, part of an oral presentation, or online discussion question that requires students to pick out the morally relevant features of an ethically complicated situation.

OBJECTIVE 2: Identify Ethical Theories - Names the major ethical theory or theories used, presents the gist of said theory or theories, and thoroughly and accurately explains the details of the theory or theories used.

EXAMPLES OF TEACHING METHODS (what YOU will do to teach students)

1. Lecture about major ethical theories, such as utilitarianism, deontological theories, divine command theories, virtue theories, etc.
2. Assign readings or videos that cover major ethical theories.

EXAMPLES OF ASSESSMENT MEASURES (how students demonstrate what they have learned)

1. Assign a paper, short essay question, exam question, part of an oral presentation, or online discussion question that requires students to explain the main features of the major ethical theories and their main differences.

OBJECTIVE 3: Apply Ethical Theories - Applies ethical theories to a complex issue accurately and considers the full implications of the application.

EXAMPLES OF TEACHING METHODS (what YOU will do to teach students)

1. Lecture about how different theories would impact the issue.
2. Give examples that show the consequences of adopting different ethical theories.

EXAMPLES OF ASSESSMENT MEASURES (how will the students demonstrate they have learned it)

1. Assign a paper, short essay question, exam question, part of an oral presentation, online discussion, question, or debate where you require students to apply one or more ethical theories to an ethically complicated situation in order to show what each theory would conclude about what the ethical action in the situation would be.

OBJECTIVE 4: Take and Support an Ethical Position - States a position in-depth and effectively defends against other ethical perspectives.

EXAMPLES OF TEACHING METHODS (what YOU will do to teach students)

1. Lecture about what one ethical theory would say against another ethical theory.
2. Assign a text or video that shows someone picking one side and arguing for it against another side, or a text or video that shows a debate between different ethical theories.
3. Arrange or pre-plan a skit in class asking students to prepare positions and perspectives for open classroom discussion.

EXAMPLES OF ASSESSMENT MEASURES (how will the students demonstrate they have learned it)

1. Assign a paper, exam question, part of an oral presentation, or online discussion question where students are required to defend one ethical theory against a rival ethical theory. Set up a classroom debate, where some students have to defend one theory and other students have to defend another theory on the ethically complicated situation.