

AMBERTON UNIVERSITY
e-COURSE SYLLABUS

RGS6036.E1 Ethics For Decision Making
FALL 2026

PROFESSOR INFORMATION:

Professor: J. Loyd
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COURSE INFORMATION:

RGS6036.E1 Ethics For Decision Making
Level: Graduate
Beginning Date of Session: Saturday, September 12, 2026
Ending Date of Session: Thursday, November 19, 2026
Student access available to the Student Portal: Saturday, September 12, 2026.

Students enrolled in distance learning courses are not assessed any additional fees for security or identity verification.

PREREQUISITES:

None

TEXTBOOK(S) AND REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Title: The Childrens' Story (Some Internet searching will probably produce an electronic version of this book)
Author: James Clavell
Publisher: Dell Books
Year Published: 1989
Edition: Any
ISBN: 10: 0440204682 or 13: 9780440204
Price: Available at <http://amberton.ecampus.com>

Students should verify enrollment in course before purchasing textbooks. Textbook information and ordering options are available through the Amberton Virtual Bookstore. Since no books are sold on campus, students should plan accordingly and purchase their books in advance of the first day of class, allowing time for shipping.

APA REQUIREMENT:

APA (American Psychological Association) style is most commonly used to cite sources within the social sciences. This resource, revised according to the 7th edition, offers examples for the general format of APA research papers, in-text citations, endnotes/footnotes, and the reference page. For more information, please consult the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, (7th ed.). All coursework at Amberton University will comply with the standards contained in the APA Publication Manual.

COURSE COMPETENCIES:

The course presents an integrated approach to understanding ethical decision-making principles. The focus of this ethical decision-making course is on the roots of ethical concepts, the methodologies for making decisions, and the application of norms and logic to current ethical issues. Activities include exploring ethical theories, defining ethical variables that comprise one's beliefs, and defining the relationship between ethical beliefs and decision-making.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE, THE STUDENT WILL BE COMPETENT IN:

1. Exploring several ethical theories, including definitions of major terms.
2. Defining and discussing the variables that comprise the basis of one's ethical beliefs.

3. Illustrating the variables that comprise the basis of one's wants and needs relative to ethical issues.
4. Investigating the importance and influence of relationships to one's ethical decision-making.
5. Analyzing the various decision-making methodologies and the techniques normally used in the decision-making process.
6. Questioning the logical reasoning for rejecting or accepting selected theories as they relate to behavior and conduct.
7. Applying ethical theories to specific life experiences—social, business, personal—and logically defending one's own conclusions about using an ethical decision-making process.
8. Describing the importance of experience, perception, and intellect to identify and interpret ethical issues.
9. Critiquing the multidimensional nature of ethical decision making and the influences and complexities these variables have on the decision-making process.
10. Defining and discussing the influences of customs, social norms, law, and religion on a personalized interpretation of ethical issues.
11. Analyzing one's human emotion and self-discipline as they relate to ethical decision-making.
12. Questioning how behavior in non-ethical situations is sometimes controlled by, or influenced by, ethical perceptions.
13. Applying the methodology for perceptively discerning the ethical influences of others.
14. Analyzing and demonstrating ethical practices that address real-world issues in various contexts.
15. Exploring ethical decision-making principles.
16. Researching ethical scenarios and impacts utilizing artificial intelligence (AI).

ACQUIRED SKILLS

1. Identification and Interpretation of Ethical Issues
2. Ethical Decision-Making
3. Emotional Intelligence and Self-Discipline

COURSE POLICIES:

This course is an on-line course and will be conducted by students uploading and downloading files. It is very important students read the entire syllabus carefully. Students will be able to access the ethics e-course website the first day of class. At that time the exercises and other pertinent course information should be downloaded from the course site. All course exercises and information is to be submitted over the Amberton Moodle course system in Word format.

STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES:

This syllabus contains information, policies, and procedures for a specific course. By enrolling, the student agrees to read, understand, and abide by the policies, rules, regulations, and ethical standards of Amberton University as contained in the current university catalog and schedule of classes.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular and punctual class attendance and engagement is expected at Amberton University. In case of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the professor as soon as possible. If a student intends on withdrawing from a course, it is the student's responsibility to follow the university's policy on formally withdrawing from a course. **Ceasing to attend classes does not constitute an official withdrawal.**

Attendance in a lecture course is defined as punctual arrival to, and engagement in, a full lecture session. A Student in a lecture course missing more than 20% (two class periods for weekday classes or one class period for Saturday classes) of the class meetings may be assigned a grade of an "F" or withdrawn at the discretion of Amberton University.

Attendance in a distance learning course is defined as active participation in the weekly online class sessions. "Active participation" can be defined as: submitting an academic assignment, taking an exam, engaging in an interactive tutorial, participating in an online discussion forum (or chat session), or initiating (or responding to) a communication with a faculty member about an academic assignment or the subject matter of the course. A student not meeting these requirements may be assigned a grade of an "F" or withdrawn at the discretion of Amberton University.

PLAGIARISM POLICY:

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as though it were your own. If you use another person's words, ideas, or information; or if you use material from an outside source – whether a book, magazine, newspaper, business publication, broadcast, speech, or electronic media – you must acknowledge that source. Plagiarism is a violation of the University's code of student ethical conduct and is one that is taken seriously. Amberton University operates on an honor system; therefore, honesty and integrity are essential characteristics of all who are associated with the institution. All Amberton students are expected to abide by the honor system and maintain academic integrity in all their work. Amberton University and its instructors monitor student work for plagiarism and reserve the right to submit such work to technology-based plagiarism detection services and applications at any time.

Self-plagiarism means reusing work that you have already published or submitted for a class. It can involve:

- Resubmitting an entire paper
- Copying or paraphrasing passages from your previous work

Self-plagiarism misleads your readers by presenting previous work as completely new and original. Students may not submit the same paper in substance in two or more classes without prior written permission of the instructors involved.

Amberton University students who use Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated content must adhere to the following policies:

Originality: Students must avoid presenting AI generated content as their own original work. It is essential to acknowledge the involvement of AI in the content creation process in order to maintain academic and ethical standards.

Paraphrasing: When using AI generated content, students must rephrase and/or modify the generated text. Paraphrased AI generated content should also be properly cited.

Acknowledgement: When using AI generated content in any assignment, proper credit must be given to the AI system that generated the content. <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

Students agree that by taking this course, all required assignments may be subject to submission for a textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism and self-plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in future papers. Use of Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com website.

Turnitin is a writing improvement and plagiarism prevention tool which uses special algorithms, to compare text-based student submissions to the Turnitin database and other online sources. Turnitin produces a detailed **similarity report** that can be customized and viewed by instructors and students.

Turnitin "Draft Coach" is a Google based add-on to Turnitin which supports students in developing high-quality academic writing; and serves as an integrity coach. Draft Coach helps address errors and improve the quality of student's writing by highlighting grammar mistakes, identifying incorrectly cited sources, and scanning for similarity across several databases. By providing formative feedback on how to address citation issues, incorrect grammar, and matches with the Turnitin database, Draft Coach provides explanations to help students become more confident writers, capable of producing higher quality work both in academics and in the workplace.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR:

This course, Ethics for Decision Making, is designed to be both theoretical and practical. The student will be exposed to definitions of relative terms associated with the discipline of ethics as well as being exposed to the major ethical theories that foster meaningful dialogue. What is right? What is good? This course will provide a practical ethical paradigm for the student's consideration..

The course is not designed to persuade the student to any predefined ethical model or standard. The course is intended to help the student to evaluate his/her own ethical values and change them or keep them especially as they relate to decision making.

Week	Topic	Assignment	Competencies Covered	Due Date
Week One Begins September 12, 2026	Introduction to the Study of Ethics	Initial Assignmeent	#2 from competency list	By 11:55 pm Sunday, September 20
Week Two Begins September 19, 2026	Ethics in Perspective	Ex 1	#2, 3, & 4	By 11:55 pm Sunday, September 27
Week Three Begins September 26, 2026	What has Theory got to do with it?	Exs 2.1 & 2.2	#s 1, 8	By 11:55 pm Sunday, October 4, 2026
Week Four Begins October 3, 2026	What Have Behavior and the Group got to do with Ethics?	Exs 2.3 and 2.4	#s 2,3,13,15	By 11:55 pm Sunday, October 11, 2026
Week Five Begins October 10, 2026	What Have Beliefs Got to do with Ethics?	Ex. 3	#s 9, 14	By 11:55 pm Sunday, October 18, 2026
Week Six Begins October 17, 2026	What Has Conformity got to do with Ethics ?	Exs 2.5-2.6	#s 6, 11	By 11:55 pm Sunday, October 25, 2026
Week Seven Begins October 24, 2026	What Do Ethics Have to do with Decision Making?	Exs 2.7-2.10	#s 4,5,8,10,12	By 11:55 pm Sunday, November 1, 2026
Week Eight Begins October 31, 2026	Synthesizing Ethical Theory and Application	Ex 4	#s 7, 15	By 11:55 pm Sunday, November 8, 2026
Week Nine Begins November 7, 2026	The Application of Ethical Concepts to Dax's Case	Ex 5	#s 7, 15	By 11:55 pm Sunday, November 15, 2026
Week Ten Begins November 14, 2026	Applying Ethics to the Island of Kora	Ex 6	#s 1-16	By 11:55 pm Thursday, November 19, 2026

GRADING CRITERIA:

(Grading Scale – Each of the exercises --Exercise 1, Exercise 2 (all parts), Exercise 3, Exercise 4, Exercise 5, and Exercise 6 are all worth 100 points each. The Initial Assignment is worth 5 points and the 5 discussion posts are worth 5 points. The total point value is 610 points. Percentages for the points are below. For example 92% of 610 is 561 points. You must have at least 561 points total to receive an A grade

Graduate

92 – 100	A
82 – 91	B
72 – 81	C
62 – 71	D
Below 62	F

GRADE NOTIFICATION AND INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK:

Students should review instructor feedback provided through Moodle or Amberton CampusWeb Portal. Final grades are processed approximately one week after the session and may be viewed through the student

portal. Grades will not be released by phone or through unsecured channels. University instructors will not leave a message with comments or grades in any type of media that is not secure.

For questions regarding grades after the semester has ended, students should use their university email account and contact the instructor at the faculty email address as provided above in Professor Information area.

INCOMPLETE GRADES:

An "I" (Incomplete) grade is granted only at the professor's discretion for emergencies or illness.

Students have 30 days from the end of the session to complete the course requirements. If the conditions are not met within this 30-day window, the "I" automatically converts to an "F".

HOW TO WITHDRAW FROM A COURSE:

To be official, the class withdrawal must be in writing and signed by the student requesting the withdrawal; no withdrawal is accepted verbally. Please review the "Schedule of Classes" (online or in-print) for procedures for class changes or withdrawals and the refund policy and schedule.

COURSE DELIVERY METHODOLOGY:

This course is delivered through Moodle. Students are expected to have reliable internet access, basic computer skills, the ability to upload/download files, use Amberton email, and submit assignments in the required format. Students needing assistance should use the Amberton SSO support/ticket process.

HOW TO ACCESS YOUR COURSE:

SINGLE SIGN-ON (SSO) INSTRUCTIONS FOR AMBERTON UNIVERSITY:

Students should access Amberton systems through the Single Sign-On portal at <https://sso.amberton.edu>. After logging in, students can access Moodle, Amberton email, CampusWeb, and other assigned applications. Students who need help accessing SSO should submit a support request through the SSO support option or contact support@amberton.edu.

MOODLE TUTORIAL:

Upon successful log in and access to the Moodle learning platform, there is a Student Moodle Tutorial course available, to learn about the basics of Moodle. Simply click on the link for the Student Moodle Tutorial and read through the various learning topics: Navigating; Communicating; Assignments & Exams; Grades; and Student Resources.

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS:

Students will communicate with faculty through the Moodle Learning Platform or the Amberton University email system.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION:

Students are expected to use their Amberton email account and Moodle for course communications. Students must use their official university email account for all university related communication and should check their Amberton emails regularly for course and university notices.

Upon completion of a session, all communication and course specific information is removed from the Moodle system. If a student needs to maintain a record of communications or assignments, the student is strongly encouraged to print out or download these items to a disk for their own records.

FORMAT AND SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignments must be submitted through the appropriate Moodle assignment link unless otherwise directed by the instructor. Students are responsible for submitting files in the format required by the instructor.

INSTRUCTOR/COURSE EVALUATION:

Students will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous course and instructor evaluation near the end of the session. Instructions and dates will be provided through Moodle and/or Amberton email.

RESEARCH RESOURCES:

The Amberton Library provides access to full-text articles, peer-reviewed databases, and research tools, with options like Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and TexShare for items outside its collection. For research assistance, students can connect with library staff during operating hours via email (library@amberton.edu), phone (972-279-6511 ext. 185), "How-to" videos, live online chat, or in person at the Garland campus. The online library is available through Single Sign On (SSO).

MICROSOFT OFFICE 365 EDUCATION:

Amberton University students may access Microsoft 365 Education resources as provided by the university.

GOOGLE WORKSPACE FOR EDUCATION:

Amberton students are assigned a Google Workspace for Education account, including Amberton Gmail, Google Drive, Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides. Students should use their Amberton Google account for course-related work when required.