

1: OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES OF THE COURSE

Meaning of objective: Is a specific result that a person or system aim to achieve within time frame and with available resources. These are also basic tools that underlie all planning and strategic activities.

Purpose of social ethics:

The main purpose of the course is to develop knowledge and skills to students on the concept and contents of social ethics and issues associated with it, so as to increase their ability of giving relevant and appropriate response to social-moral problems like corruption, early marriages, abortions, street children and many alike. *The following are the objectives and purposes of the course:*

- To give appropriate, relevant and meaningful response to social-moral problems such as corruption, pregnancies, abortions, drug abuse, murders, suicides and homosexuality. Problems solving in human relationship, empowerment and liberation of people to enhance wellbeing.
- Manifestation of social reality in family areas of work, state government and nation to promote, the spirit of good relationship. Social Reality means the natural tendency to see others as oneself or a friend of oneself that is to unite and cooperate with others.
- To give ability of skills to the person about principles of social ethics within the societies or to an individual. for example: Moral judgment.
- To evaluate the concept of love in relationship to sexuality marriage and of daily life, in order to maintain peace, security, cooperation and unity amongst the members of the family.
- To understand the social-moral problems within the society like the causes, effects, and the effective way of controlling and solving those problems for example: drunkards and smokers.
- To introduce to the students the issues related to defence. The defense of human life and creation in general so that it can help them in their future lives for example: Pastors and Soldiers.
- Prudent application of principles of social ethics that is choosing the best option in whatever situation, circumstances or environment in order to follow the basic principles of ethics.

In Social ethics, awareness is a fundamental part of the professional practice of the social workers, their ability and commitment to act ethically is an essential aspect of the quality of service offered to those who use social work service.

2: FUNDAMENTAL ETHICS

GENERAL INTRODUCTION:

Contents of general introduction:

- Meaning of philosophy
- Branches of philosophy
- Meaning of ethics
- Kinds or types of ethics
- Factors in human behavior
- Motives in human response

* Principle 4 respect of autonomy

1: PHILOSOPHY

The word "philosophy" comes from two Greek words, "PHILO" and "SOPHIA"

PHILO: Means Love ie: a process of sharing experience, good judgement, knowledge and art of careful thought with others in a community. It can also mean dedication, interest, strong passion,

attraction, desire and inclination.

SOPHIA: Means Wisdom ie: a quality of being wise in any decisions of life you take for the benefit of others including yourself. It can also mean literacy, knowledge, understanding and awareness.
Therefore:

PHILOSOPHY: Is referred as Love of Wisdom, or, Is the power of imagination i.e.: is the power of looking

beyond what you see, searching of knowledge, deeper understanding of how the Realities are actually.

As an intellectual being, man has been searching in order to understand various in his life. By doing such inquiries have helped him in understanding himself better and the world that surrounds him. Philosophy involves the expansions and systematic monitoring of basic human activities and not only the accumulation of knowledge but also arises a natural sense of wonder and that's what many philosophers regard as a basic human need to find deeper meaning in our lives. Philosophy can also mean that everyone has the vision to look the world and understand it the way they want; a deep thinker of man who can reflect because every man has its own way of seeing things.

2: BRANCHES OF PHILOSOPHY

There are four main branches of philosophy that are the major ones:

- Logics
- Epistemology
- Ethics and
- Metaphysics

But apart from these, there are other branches of philosophy such as; Psychology, Anthropology, Theodicy, Cosmology and Aesthetic, which are minor.

LOGICS:

Is the art of reasoning and thinking, it is the branch of philosophy which deals with the correct reasoning and argument. Or it can be the study of structure and principles of technique of reasoning. It is reasoning techniques because it distinguishes correct thinking and incorrect reasoning.

When a person is able to take a correct decision with the right reasoning, we can say that it is logically correct and understandable.

EPISTEMOLOGY:

The term "Epistemology" comes from two Greek words namely, "**EPISTEM**" and "**LOGOS**".
EPISTEM: Means knowledge, ie: to know it can be to remember, to experience, to control or to rule it. It can also be the differentiation between a true knowledge and a fake.

LOGOS: Means the study or theory of. It can be anything in which any philosopher is interested, it can be about lifestyle, customs or also culture.

So:

EPISTEMOLOGY: Is the branch of philosophy that studies the nature, source and validity of knowledge and truth. It is also the philosophy of knowing and also the theory of knowledge and new ability to claim of the knowledge.

ETHICS:

is the art of living, it is the scientific study dealing with the social behavior of the people by identifying the badness and goodness of it in the society. It is also the philosophy concerned with what is right and what is wrong in human institutions. It uses the value of judgment as a method of knowing such as fairness, murder, exploitation, dishonest and clueless.

There are three major types of ethics such as descriptive ethics, normative ethics, and meta ethics; These types help in understanding the whole situation in describing how a certain society lives.

METAPHYSICS:

The word "Metaphysics" comes from two Greek words "META" and "PHYSICS"

META: Means after or beyond that is to say that we should never judge and decide anything instantly, we should first consider all the possible and available solutions before concluding on anything.

PHYSICS: Meaning material reality, beyond the nature.

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Therefore:

METAPHYSICS: Is the study of nature of reality, it is the study of relationship between matter and mind (soul), it is the philosophy of being existing in reality. It speculates the existence of 'GOD' and the meaning of being metaphysics use method of speculation so as to get true thinking.

OTHER BRANCHES OF PHILOSOPHY ARE:

• PSYCHOLOGY:

Dealing with understanding human behaviour, mental processes as well as understanding the mind and soul.

• AESTHETIC:

Is the philosophical study of arts, beauty and ugliness.

• COSMOLOGY:

Dealing with the scientific study of universe or earth.

ANTHROPOLOGY:

Dealing with relationship between man and its society.

• THEODICY:

Dealing with the study of religious beliefs that is the things related to 'GOD' for instance whether we believe in him or not.

3: ETHICS

This is a branch of philosophy (a discipline) which deals with theories of value and their application in human life. Ethics can also be defined as:

LINGUISTICAL APPROACH: Is a Greek or Latin word "ETHOS" which means customs, religion and a law of tradition.

SCHOLASTICAL APPROACH: Is the scientific study dealing with the social behavior of people by identifying the badness and goodness in a society.

Ethics is dealing with moral judgment; it is also concerned with the study of right and wrong in order to live a good life. It is also a branch of philosophy dealing with philosophical way of thinking, a way of looking things deeply and not for granted.

Ethics is described into two terms, FACTUAL TERM and ETHICAL TERM.

FACTUAL TERM: as a constant to ethical terms the following are factual terms. Tall, big, thin, fat, visible, invisible, alive or dead. And the statement containing one factual term is a factual (non ethical) judgment.

Example: Mr. Juma is obsessed.

ETHICAL TERM: ethical field is province of ethical term and judgment. It is any such term as good, bad, right, wrong, duty, obligation, evil or beautiful. An ethical judgment is a statement containing at least one ethical term.

Example: Helping orphans to live a good life is the duty of every individual.

4: KINDS OR TYPES OF ETHICS

There are three major types of ethics which are:

❖ DESCRIPTIVE ETHICS:

This is the type of ethics which talks or describe about the activities of certain communities and what they morally consider acceptable or unacceptable.

Such activities may be part of their cultural practices like; Marriage, ritual, or interaction in everyday activities.

For example: Suppose some decides to describe Kinga or Maasai practice marriage or burial, he would explain such practice starting what is considered good, bad, right, or wrong during the marriage ceremony or burial ceremony among the Kinga or Maasai.

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❖ META ETHICS:

This goes beyond what has been described or talked, i.e. what are the reasons, causes, intentions of doing a certain task, why are they doing what they are doing? What are the reasons behind it.

For example: the tradition of certain societies such as the Hindus funeral ceremony is not the same as the Muslim and the Christians funeral ceremony.

❖ NORMATIVE ETHICS:

This is the type of ethics which set down by the people or a given society is expected to judge the goodness, badness of their actions. Its just that what should be done in order to solve a certain problem.

For example: Parents and preachers make use of normative ethics when they advise those under them as to what they should do or not do or even think.

5: FACTORS IN HUMAN BEHAVIOUR

Meaning of human response:

Human response is the behavior of the man to give response (feedback) according to his or her ideas or understanding of matter.

Also this response given can be positively or negatively due to the situation of the person. The following are the factors of human behavior in a society.

> UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF MAN

The understanding the nature of man it shows the physical appearance of a man, he can either give a response positively or negatively. The positive response is given when a man is either happy, understanding the matter or experienced with that matter, and also negatively response is given when a man is either unhappy, not familiar with the topic or difficulty in communication. *For example:* when asking a man about what is the goal or purpose of studying at RUCO institute or why are you studying laboratory science or pharmaceutical science the

giving response to
higher ideas or
understanding
of matter

answer given is either positive or negative depending on the situation and circumstances or understanding of the matter or the topic.

➤ THE END OF MAN

The end of man is action or last say or decisions taken by man about object or matter, and also this decision making can be goodness or badness according to the nature of response given, either positively or negatively. For example, a boy approaches a girl and she gives a positive response, a boy expects to take action at the end of the day that he is going to marry her.

➤ NATURE OF REALITY UNDER CONSIDERATION

The nature of reality is the situation or consideration taken by a man before success of something or is any expectation given by a man for the aim of getting good result about the response.

For example, when a man finds a job he or she expect that after getting a job there is money or when a patient is going to the hospital the expectation is that he or she is suffering from malaria due to either filling cold or headache.

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➤ THE END OF REALITY UNDER CONSIDERATION

This is the last judgment or action taken by man after expectation or consideration of matter. For example, when a man is married he expects to get a family.

The ethical and moral response.

The term ethical may be used in various ways. In one sense it may be used to mean moral. In this way it means that which is constant with the rules of morality as opposed to those of immorality. Here the term ethical may be equivalent to the term rightness.

6: MOTIVES IN HUMAN RESPONSE

1. To be promoted.

In this motive people perform certain activities purposely for being awarded at the end of that activity.

Example, in college learning, the students learn so that at the end of their courses is to be awarded a certificate.

2. To avoid punishment.

In this motive one does things so as to avoid being punished.

Examples, Prisoners perform work so as to avoid punishment according to the Law.

3. Eternal life.

In this motive one performs certain thing so as to inherit everlasting life.
Examples, Pastors serve in the name of God so as to inherit everlasting life.

4. Imitation

In this motive one follows the lifestyle of somebody. It can also be culture, opinion, customs, and traditions.

5. Community spirit

In this motives people tend to make the law which will guide them hence live without problems as the community.

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF ETHICS

INTRODUCTION: meaning of ethics

Ethics comes from the word Ethos which means customs, traditions and culture. It can also be material object and formal object.

Material object: for ethics, are all acts which are done by human whether it is knowingly or willingly with a certain intention or a specific goal.

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Formal object: what is considered whether those acts are good or evil, right or wrong. Example, Homosexuality in science it is abnormality but in ethics is a bad thing and not a good thing, whether it is desirable or undesirable.

✓ **HUMAN ACT AND ACT OF MAN.**

Human act- is an act done by a person knowingly and willingly with a certain intention for a specific goal.

Act of man- is an act done by a person unknowingly and unwillingly with no specific intention.

✓ **OBSTACLES TO HUMAN ACT.**

It is the reduction of responsibilities. It can be due to:

1. Ignorance, one does something unknowingly thus, not responsible.
2. Inattention, one does something in order to gain attention.
3. Fear, one does something in fear of someone or something.
4. Violence/force, one does something because of being forced or pressurized.
5. Emotions/patience, one does something in need of his or her emotions.
6. Habits, one does something because he or she is habituated. E.g. drugs
7. Circumstances, one does something in consideration of the circumstances.

M. Sam Hasonda

✓ END OF HUMAN ACTION.

The idea is that to know well the actions of a person, to know the reason, intention, end as to why one does something that is to know thoroughly why one is doing so.

- Meaning of end – consequences, effects of an act or action, intention of the agent, what the agent is seeking.
- Stages in an end – steps to be followed to reach the end.
 1. Immediate end – e.g. studying in order to success.
 2. Proximate end – e.g. being graduated and receiving a certificate.
 3. Ultimate end – e.g. being paid salary after working.

✓ END OF ACTION AND END OF AGENT.

End of action – goals of a certain act or action.

End of agent – end of the doer or maker, what one seeks for

- ✧ Ultimate end – last end, what do people seek/what are they after, they are after Happiness-condition of wellbeing. Happiness which consists of,

1. Pleasure
2. Riches and money
3. Honor and respect
4. Truth
5. In God

* Partion

✓ MORALITY AND RESPONSIBILITY.

Morality – the word comes from Latin word "Mors" which means customs, traditions, and ways of life.

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In our case, morality is the consideration of desirability of the human act it is being done knowingly and willingly but the question comes is it accepted, desired, or approved e.g. stealing

Standards of morality. The criteria/basis of morality

1. End – an act done according to the ultimate end is good
2. Law – an act that is done in accordance of the existing laws/agreement to the laws that the act is right.

*But does that act help you to reach your ultimate end.

- ✧ Social life – to fit in the community of the existing laws.

Sources of morality.

We have to consider the effects and consequences, intentions of the doer, and circumstances.

If you want to decide whether the act is morally good or bad we consider three main things.

1. Effects and consequences of an action

2. Intentions of an agent
3. Circumstances and surroundings

❖ Principle of double effect.

An act has got many consequences; some consequences are evil while some are good.

What is to be done?

Do it under the following conditions:

1. That the action is good in itself
2. The agent intends the good
3. The evil consequences are less than the good ones and choose the best among all.

✓ COOPERATION

When an act is wrong and evil and it has been done by many people, then you ought to know that who is responsible for it?

There are two types of cooperation,

1. Material cooperation, one cooperates unknowingly.
2. Formal cooperation, one cooperates knowingly, willingly.

In the society there are main agent and the helpers. (One should know properly before helping someone.)

✓ LAW AND RIGHT REASON (PRUDENCE)

Contexts of the treatment of law

Which acts are good, evil, right, wrong.

Spirit of law

True meaning of law in order to determine what is right or wrong.

Law is connected to the common good

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Laws are made in order to be implemented and are made for the wellbeing of all people.

Common good – is the sum – total of the social conditions which allows/permits every person to grow, develop fully and easily.

Elements of the common good include:

1. Rights of each person
2. Interests of the group
3. Peace and security

▪ What is a law?

It's an audience of reasoning for the common good propagated by the one who has the care for the community.

- Kinds of laws:
 1. Divine law(s) – Made by God
 2. Natural law(s) – Nature of the person
 3. Civil/Human law(s) – Made by people, government or parliament
- Synderesis – the ability in man to know the first principles of life.
- Prudence – is choosing the best thing to do in all circumstances of life. Always remember the God know well the circumstances and take the best in order to reach the goals/end
- Conscience – is the inner voice which tells one this is right and the best thing to do, do it.

✓ LIFE OF VIRTUE

- Experience – the coward/ not strong in life or not courageous is not respected by others
A person who is the slave of pleasures is also not respected.
- Virtue (will) a person who is strong and courageous, a master of oneself not ruled by external forces.
- Plato's ideas.
Every person has three parts in one soul which are,
 1. Rational soul- thinking, reasoning, discussing and it is connected to the brain.
 2. Irascible soul- revenge, anger, defense, fighting and it is connected to the heart.
 3. Contapishible soul- pleasure, desire, drinking eating and it is connected from chest till legs.

Every person's soul shows some characters in a special way. A person who has a good rational soul should be the leader of the other soul; a person with good irascible soul let him be the soldier of the nation and the one with a high degree of contapishible soul let him become a farmer. In every persons body one soul of the three is dominant.
- From Plato we have the following virtues:
 1. Temperance,
Enjoyment of the pleasures in moderate way that is eating and drinking is concerned with self preservation.

2. Fortitude,
To be strong, courageous, to continue in good things even in difficulties and dangerous conditions and situations.
3. Prudence,
One always remembers the end, circumstances, situations and one seeks the best in those circumstances.
4. Justice,
Give to everyone what is due, what is everyone's right and to give everyone what one ought to give.

Virtue is connected with characters, personality of the person and this helps you to do your work properly

o System of virtues

There are many virtues but amongst them which one is the basic and foundation of all others.

- ↓ Socrates said that the basic virtue is knowledge to know, and to understand
- ↓ Plato said that the basic virtue is justice to give everyone what is due
- ↓ Aristotle said that the basic virtue is prudence to know what is your aim and what should you do
- ↓ Augustine the basic virtue is love wishing well for the others

o Requirements for any virtue

In the development of virtue the following is required:

- ↓ Knowledge and prudence in application of any virtue
- ↓ Love, one must appreciate and like it and should be interested in it
- ↓ Domination of the patience, especially in what you are looking for.

✓ JUSTICE AND RIGHTS

Justice, a disposition to give everyone what is due, to give everyone what is his right

- ↓ How to determine what one ought to give?
- ↓ Use natural law, civil law

The natural law everyone takes in order to exist, everyone seeks for happiness e.g. freedom of marriage, association.

The civil laws are bounded to you. In order to give everyone what is due you must have a thorough knowledge and prudence.

➤ Justice and laws

- Laws helps us to know what to give to others but there is a need to be prudent in applications of laws
- One has to remember the circumstances, place, time in application of laws
- In application of laws one has to remember that the author is limited and the circumstances are changing.

➤ Kinds of justice.

1. Commutative justice – there is fairness in exchange of goods
2. Legal justice – the society can demand the individuals to do certain things for the common good.

3. Distributive justice – everyone is to be given according to ones needs and contributions.

- Rights, to have access to the means to reach ones goals and aims
- Specification of rights,
 - ↓ Basic right, right to life