**Course Outline**

**Summer 2025**

Department of History and Philosophy

School of Humanities and Social Sciences

North South University, Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh

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| Course Code: PHI 104  Course Title: Introduction to Ethics Course Teacher: Dr. Md. Manzoor Elahee (MmEe) Contact No: 01301310861 E-mail: [manzoor.elahee@northsouth.edu](mailto:manzoor.elahee@northsouth.edu) | Semester: Summer 2025  Section: 4  Class Time: RA 02:40 PM - 04:10 PM  Room No.: NAC 406  Section: 5  Class Time: RA 04:20 PM-05:50 PM  Room No.: NAC 406 |

**Description:**

The current course deals with distinguishing between good and evil or right and wrong. It presents the combined influence of *truth*, *good* and *beautiful,* as reflected in the concept of ethical excellence in almost every generation of human society. It shows how developing and maintaining high moral values and ethical conduct are crucial in combating corruption and social crimes in public life today. This course familiarizes students with the critical works on the subject within public governance and management practices in recent decades across the globe. It introduces students to virtue ethics, deontology, utilitarianism in the Western philosophical tradition, examines the moral debate between universalism and relativism, and demonstrates various analysis methods applied to contemporary ethical problems. Issues related to abortion, reproductive technologies, organ transplantation, affirmative action, capital punishment, euthanasia, conflict and violence, gender discrimination, violation of human rights, environmental degradation, etc., are examined here. Finally, the course will review a liberal, pragmatic and multicultural perspective on ethical theory and moral problems.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To facilitate students’ understanding of the question– Why study ethics?
2. To clarify main ethical terms and concepts.
3. To explain different approaches to the study of ethics.
4. To understand the moral values that ought to guide our behavior.
5. To justify the moral judgements concerning our life.
6. To learn to resolve the moral conflicts and dilemmas.
7. To introduce the great moral philosophers and their thoughts.

**Course outcomes: Students will-**

1. be able to identify, analyze and think clearly about moral problems.
2. learn how to determine the right thing to do

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1. learn to respect for persons, i.e., showing concerns for the well-being of others, besides

themselves.

1. will increase the ability to deal with ethical issues and solve problems of everyday life and in professional life efficiently by applying moral principles and thinking better about morality.
2. apply this knowledge to their life, i.e., they will behave in a

morally desirable way.

1. learn about the techniques of building ethical infrastructure, general ethical behavior models and guidelines for maintaining an ethical environment in the workplace.
2. know how moral action can strengthen democracy by encouraging the fairness necessary to its deliberations.

**Evaluation:**

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| Attendance & Participation (equal value each) | 10% |
| Class Test (quiz) | 20% |
| Internal assessment (oral exam, presentation, etc.) | 10% |
| Midterm Exam | 20% |
| Ethics Case Study Project Report/Assignment | 10% |
| Final Exam | 30% |

**Importance of Studying Ethics:**

Ethics is a branch of philosophy that focuses on morality and the way in which moral principles

are applied to everyday life. In order to be a morally good person, it is very helpful to have an

understanding of ethics. The study of ethics will help the students to think critically about ethical

matters and understand the moral values that ought to guide them. Ethics tells us how to live and

act with others in the society. Moral concerns are unavoidable and very much related in every walk of our life. The area of its application is expanding day by day. Because of these today ethics has become a very relevant and important subject of study.

**LECTURE SCHEDULE**

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| **COURSE CONTENT** | **Number of weeks** | **Reference** | **Assessment type** |
| Introduction to Ethics, Ethics and Philosophy, Applied Ethics, Ethical Reasoning  Ethics and Religion, Ethics and Law, Ethics and Psychology | Week 1 | Chapter 1: Ethics and Ethical  Reasoning  Book by Andrew Fiala & Mackinnon, Barbar (2014).  Chapter 1: Definition and Ontology of Ethics,  Book by B N Ghosh (2012).  Chapter 1 by William Lillie (1990). |  |
| Meta-ethics, Universalism & Relativism, Islamic Ethics | Week 2 | Chapter 3: Ethical Relativism  Book by Fiala, Andrew & Mackinnon, Barbar (2014),  Chapter 1: The Koranic Ethos  Book by Majid Fakhry (1994). |  |
| Normative Ethics: Consequentialism, Deontology & Virtue Ethics | Week 3  &  Week 4 | Chapter 5: Utilitarianism & JS Mill  Chapter 6: Deontological Ethics & Immanuel Kant  Chapter 8: Virtue Ethics  Book by Andrew Fiala & Mackinnon, Barbar (2014).  Chapter 3: Theories of Ethics  Book by B N Ghosh (2012). | CLASS TEST  (QUIZ I) |
| Medical Ethics: Drug Abuse, Euthanasia, Physician Assisted Suicide, Abortion & Population Control  Genetic Engineering Ethics and Stem Cell Research | Week 5  &  Week 6 | Chapter 10: Euthanasia  Chapter 11: Abortion  Chapter 18: Biotechnology and Bioengineering  Book by Andrew Fiala & Mackinnon, Barbar (2014).  Chapter 5: Colonial Hangover  Book by M.Emdadul Haq (2019) |  |
| Virtual World: Social Media,  Video Gaming, Computer Ethics, Cyber Ethics, AI & Information Technology  Ethical Issues in AI | Week 7  &  Week 8 | Chapter 4: Ethics and the Internet 1: Ethics Online  Book by Deborah G.Johnson( 2007)  Brian Patrick Green  “Artificial Intelligence and Ethics: Sixteen Challenges and Opportunities” Markkula Center for Applied ethics | MIDTERM EXAM |
| Legal Ethics: Theories of Punishment, Capital Punishment and Extra-Judicial Killings  Responsibility: Responsibility towards Parents & Family | Week 9 | Chapter 15: Punishment and the  Death Penalty  Book by Andrew Fiala & Mackinnon, Barbar (2014).  Chapter 6: Ethics of Care and Compassion  Book by B.N Ghosh (2012) | CLASS TEST  (QUIZ II) |
| Public Governance Ethics: Administrative & Professional, Political Succession: Elected & Selected  Professional Ethics and Human Values | Week 10 | ‘Transparency, Openness, & Ethics in Public Governance’  M. Emdadul Haq (2019)  Part II: Democracy as a Universal Value  Larry May, et al. (2011),  Chapter 12: Professional Ethics and Human Values  Book by B.N. Ghosh (2012) |  |
| Political Ethics: Liberal Ethics, Secular Ethics, Humanist Ethics, Feminist Ethics  Theories of Justice | Week 11 | Part II: Human Rights  Larry May, et al. (2011),  Chapter 7: Feminist Ethics  Torbjorn Tannsio (2009).  Chapter 9: Feministic Thought and the Ethics of Care  Chapter 14: Economic Justice  Book by Andrew Fiala & Mackinnon, Barbar (2014). |  |
| Environmental Ethics: Ethics and the Environment | Week 12 | Chapter 16: Environmental Ethics  Book by Andrew Fiala& Mackinnon, Barbar (2014).  Chapter 7 by B.N Ghosh (2012) | CLASS TEST  (QUIZ III) |
| Ethical Question of Colonization, Ethical Question of Racism, Terrorism | Week 13 | Part V: Racial and Ethnic Discrimination  Larry May, et al. (2011).  Chapter 19: Violence and War  Book by Andrew Fiala & Mackinnon, Barbar (2014).  Chapter 5: Colonial Hangover  Book by M.Emdadul Haq (2019) | ETHICS REPORT  /ASSIGNMENT  SUBMISSION |
| Review Class | Week 14 |  | VIVA-VOCE |
| Review Class | Week 15 |  | **FINAL EXAM** |
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**Basic Books: Pdf versions of all the text books are available online. I will also upload them on CANVAS just in case with other materials whenever needed.**

1.Fiala, Andrew & Mackinnon, Barbar (2014), *Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues,*London: Cengage Learning.

2.May, Larry et al. (2011), *Applied Ethics: A Multicultural Approach,*Boston: Prentice-Hall.

3.Tannsjo, Torbjorn (2009), *Understanding Ethics: An Introduction to Moral Theory*, London: Edinburgh University Press.

**Additional Readings:**  *An online e-text version of the 2nd book among the additional readings will be uploaded to the CANVAS. Other materials from the additional readings will also be uploaded to the CANVAS whenever needed. Students can purchase additional reading books number 3 and 5 from the NSU Bookstore.*

1.Fakhry, Majid (1994), *Ethical Theories in Islam*, New York: E. J. Brill.

2.Ghosh, B.N. (2012), *Business Ethics and Corporate Governance*, Tata McGraw Hill Education

Private Limited, New Delhi.

3.Haq, Emdadul M. (2019), *Colonial Drug Trade in South Asia from Palashi to Partition*, 2nd ed., Dhaka: Century Publications.

4.Johnson, Deborah G., (2007), *Computer Ethics*, Pearson Education. India.

5.Swazo, N.K. ed., Topics in Moral Philosophy and Applied Ethics: An Anthology (Dhaka: Century Publications, 2018)