

Department of History and Philosophy
North South University
Bashundhara, Dhaka

Semester: Summer, 2020

Office Hours: MW 11:2000am-12:500pm

Course Code: PHI104

MW 2:40pm-3:10pm

Sections: 10, 12 &15

Course Title: Introduction to Ethics

Course Teacher: **Nasrin Sultana (Nst)**

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Schedule: PHI104.10 MW 8:00 am-09:30 am Room no. NAC 618; Google classroom Code: dmdl4kb

PHI104.15 MW 09:40 am-11:10 am Room no. LAB4; Google Classroom Code: 23x43wq

PHI104.12 MW 1:00pm- 2:30 pm Room no. NAC 514; Google Classroom Code: uwi6gch

Course Description: In this course, as its name indicates, you will be introduced to Ethics through some puzzling questions regarding values and society, or if you prefer: living morally with others. It will be divided into three main sections: 1) Philosophy and The Good Life, 2) Moral Theories, 3) Application of Moral Theories. Reading texts are from some major philosophers such as Epicurus, Aristotle, Bentham, Mill, Kant, and, we will think about some of the following questions: What makes a life worth living? What is the value of the philosophical life? Is happiness or pleasure more valuable than knowledge? How can we know what the right thing to do is? Is it more important to minimize the suffering or to respect the rights of others? Toward whom do we have moral responsibilities? Are humans naturally good or evil? Are humans better off with or without a ruler?

Those questions have been puzzling philosophers for many centuries and still continue to do so, so you should not expect to get any clear-cut answers but to gain a deeper understanding of the complexity of those questions. Through the readings, you will be presented with different and

sometimes opposite views. Since Ethics, as a branch of philosophy, is not about opinions but about providing arguments to support one's views, we will spend most of this course assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments provided in the readings. You will also be asked to provide some input into the discussion, but as a philosopher, you will need to back up your claims with arguments. My hope and expectation is that you will discover some unexpected insights and new ways of thinking about the world and your place in it. The course will be taught by lectures followed by classroom discussions.

The main objectives of the course:

1. to provide students with a clear and comprehensive conception of what ethics is and why it is valuable.
2. to make students become familiar with major ethical problems and the methods of dealing them;
3. To discuss, analyze and reflect ethical concepts, standards, methods and ideas.
4. To demonstrate understanding of various ethical issues in contemporary world.
5. to make students able to read and interpret original texts;
6. to help students acquire an initial command of philosophical language;
7. to improve students' ability to think critically about ethical issues, develop their own ideas about those issues, and express these ideas clearly and persuasively in writing.

After the successful completion of the Course:

- Students will be able to understand the nature of ethical thinking, ethical problems and offer a justified own view
- Students will be able to identify some key moral philosophers in the West and be familiar about their thoughts and reasoning in shaping a good society.
- Apply critical reasoning in various ethical problems and be a critical thinker.

Book recommended:

1. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics* (Book II), Trans. by W.D. Ross, Publisher: Batoche Books
2. Immanuel Kant: *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* (Section II), Trans. & Edited by Mary Gregor, First Published 1998, Publisher: Cambridge University Press, ISBN 0-521-622-352

3. Jeremy Bentham, *An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation* (Chapter IV), Publisher: Dover Publications, ISBN 0-486-4545-5
4. John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism* (Chapter 2), Publisher: Seven Treasures Publications, ISBN 9781439297629
5. Peter Singer (Edited), *Applied Ethics* (Chapters 3, 4) edited by Peter Singer, First Edition 1986, Publisher: Oxford University Press
6. Sultana, Nasrin. 2016. Aristotelian Virtue Ethics and Donation for Planting Trees. *Copula: Jahangirnagar University Studies in Philosophy*. Vol. xxxiii. June, 2016: 51-59
7. Sultana, Nasrin. 2016. Stoic Virtue Ethics and Establishing a Nuclear Power Plant: Perspective Bangladesh. *Copula: Jahangirnagar University Studies in Philosophy*. Vol. xxxiv. June, 2018
8. Additional reading materials will be provided by the instructor.

Marks distribution, examinations and assignments:

Midterm exam	20
Quiz (10+10)	20
Presentation	10
Attendance +	
Class Participation	10
Comprehensive viva/	
Learning outcome	10
Final exam	30
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Total	100

Grading method:

Numerical Scores	Letter Grade	Grade Points Per Credit	Numerical Scores	Letter Grade	Grade Points Per Credit
93 and above	A Excellent	4.0	90 - 92	A-	3.7
87 - 89	B+	3.3	83 - 86	B Good	3.0

80 - 82	B-	2.7	77 - 79	C+	2.3
73 - 76	C Average	2.0	70 - 72	C-	1.7
67 - 69	D+	1.3	60 - 66	D Poor	1.0
Below 60	F* Failure	0.0	Incomplete	I	0.0
Withdrawal	W	0.0	Retaken	R	0.0

Notes for students: (i) students are expected to **attend all lectures** during the semester; a student who knows of necessary class absences should consult the instructor in advance; a student who misses a class is not excused from his/her obligations to the instructor. (ii) no make-up/re-take examination/presentation will be allowed; any missed examination/presentation will be considered as a zero credit point. (iii) cheating in examination by any means, copying from another student's paper, plagiarism, or any other sort of academic dishonesty may cause the cancellation of the exam for the concerned student. (iv) students are advised to check the university policies relevant to courses, examinations and academic honesty.

Lecture Distribution:

Lecture	Topics
Lecture 1, 2 What is Ethics?	Ethics and Moral Philosophy, The Development of Morality, The Development of Ethical Theory
Lecture 3	Fallacies
Lecture 4	Quiz-1 on lecture 1-3 The philosopher and the sophist, the value of the examined life <i>Read: Plato, Apology of Socrates (reading #1, Voltaire, "The Story of a Good Brahman"</i>
Lecture 5	

Philosophy and the Good Life	<p>The philosopher and the sophist, the value of the examined life</p> <p><i>Read: Plato, Apology of Socrates (reading #1, Voltaire, “The Story of a Good Brahman”</i></p>
Lecture 6	Consequentialism (Hedonism: Epicurus)
Lecture 7, 8 & 9 Moral theories	Utilitarianism (Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill)
Lecture 10 & 11 Moral theories	Deontology (Kantian Ethics)
Lecture 12	Mid Term on Lecture 5-11
Lecture 13 & 14 Moral theories	Virtue Ethics (Aristotle’s and Stoic Ethics)
Lecture 15	Quiz-2 on lecture 13-14
Lecture 16 & 17 Application of Ethical Theories	<p><i>Ethics and The Environment</i></p> <p>Environment as an Ethical Problem (Tree Plantations; Establishing Nuclear Power plants: Perspective Bangladesh)</p>
Lecture 18 Euthanasia	<p>Quiz 3 on lecture 16 and 17</p> <p><i>Applied Ethics</i></p> <p>Active and Passive Euthanasia</p>
Lecture 19 Abortion	A Defence of Abortion
Lecture 20, 21 & 22	Students’ Presentations on Recent Ethical Issues Applying Ethical Theories
Lecture 23	Comprehensive Viva
Lecture 24	Comprehensive Viva

The date of the Final Examination will be scheduled by the Registrar.