**St. Mary’s University**

**Basic course Department**

**Course title: Moral and Civic**

**Course code: MoCi 102**

**Credit hours: 3 cr. Hours**

**Course Description**

The course is designed for undergraduate students with the aim of producing good, competent and participatory citizens in their day to day public life. The course introduces students to the basics of civics and ethics, citizenship, morality and the goals of studying civics and ethics. It familiarizes the students with the nature, purpose and form of state and government, constitution, democracy and human rights.

**Course Objectives:** Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

* Understand the subject matter of civics and ethics
* Cultivate certain moral values and civic virtues that enable them to be morally ready, matured and competent in their professional and citizenry lives by practically exposing them to moral and civic debates, discussions and engagements
* Develop such values, virtues as recognition, appreciation and tolerance towards diversity and also build a culture of peace
* Gain knowledge about theoretical discourses in practices of states, government and citizenship in their mutual interplay especially in the context of Ethiopia
* Develop individual and/or collective potential of becoming self-confident citizens who can effectively participate in their legal, political, social, economic and cultural lives.
* Understand the essence of such values and principles as democracy and human rights, multiculturalism, Constitution and constitutionalism with special reference

**Chapter 1: Understanding Civics and ethics**

* 1. Defining civics, ethics, morality and amorality
  2. The origin and development of civics and ethical education
  3. The purpose of civics and ethical education
  4. Citizen’s rights and responsibilities
  5. Competences of good citizen

**Chapter 2: Approaches to ethics**

* 1. Normative ethics
     1. Teleological ethics (consequentialist)

-Hedonism

-Ethical and psychological egoism: Epicureanism and cyrenaicism

-Social hedonism utilitarianism

* + 1. Deontological ethics (non consequentialist)

-Performance of one’s own duty and divine based morality

-Kant’s categorical imperative and W.D. Ross’s prima facie duty

* + 1. Virtue ethics and civics

-Basic principles of civic virtues

-How to be a virtuous person?

* 1. Non-normative ethics

-Meta ethics

-Absolutism/objectivism

-Relativism/subjectivism and conventionalism

-Naturalism and non naturalism

* 1. Issues in applied ethics
     1. Development ethics

-How should the society develop?

* + 1. Environmental ethics

-Ecosystem and environmental pollutions

-Principles of environmental ethics

* + 1. Professional ethics

-Profession and professionalism

-The scope of professional ethics

-Common principles of professional ethics

**Chapter 3: Ethical decision making and moral judgments**

* 1. Ethical principles and values of moral judgments

-The principle of equal consideration of interest

-Conflicting goals and ethical justifications

-Ethical values and justifiable exceptions

**Chapter 4: State government and citizenship**

* 1. understanding state: Definition, attributes and structure of a state
  2. understanding government

-Major function, purpose, types and systems of government

* 1. understanding citizenship: Definition, inclusion and exclusion of citizenship

-Ways of acquiring and losing citizenship

-Citizenship and state formation in Ethiopian context: past and present

**Chapter 5: Constitution, democracy and human rights**

* 1. Constitution and constitutionalism

-Definition, major purposes, classification and functions of constitution

-The constitutional experience of Ethiopia pre and post 1931

* 1. Democracy and democratization

-Definitions, forms and views of democracy

-Fundamental values and principles of democracy

-Major actors in democratization process

-Democracy and good governance in Ethiopia

* 1. Human rights

-Definition, nature and basic characteristics of human rights

-Dimensions, protection and promotion of human rights

-The protection and promotion of human rights

**Methods of Teaching**

* Lecturing
* Class discussion
* Debate
* Reading assignments

**Methods of evolution**

* Individual / group assignments, or
* Research oriented projects
* Mid- exam
* Final examination

**References**

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