



Course Syllabus

Course Code	Course Title	ECTS Credits
PHIL-120	Ethics	6
Prerequisites	Department	Semester
None	Social Sciences	Fall/Spring
Type of Course	Field	Language of Instruction
Elective	General Education	English
Level of Course	Lecturer(s)	Year of Study
1 st Cycle	Dr Pavlos E. Michaelides	1 st -4 th
Mode of Delivery	Work Placement	Co-requisites
Face-to-Face	N/A	None

Course Objectives:

The main objectives of the course are to:

- Provide students with a spherical approach to foundational ethical issues
- Discuss the main forms of ethical thinking, ancient and contemporary
- Identify and discuss applied ethical issues as these relate to everyday practices
- Engage and clarify the relationship between the 'ego' and the 'world' through philosophical and ethical modes of appropriation and comprehension
- Engage themes corollary to the ethical responsibility we bear before other humans and other forms of life
- Clarify the relationship between the ethical way of life and the deepening of critical thinking in view of a pluralist and multicultural perspective
- Critically engage the notions of ethical truth and untruth in view of a philosophy of freedom.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. Assess the notion of the ethical in view of philosophical thought and knowledge.
2. Engage ethical principles as these relate to the hermeneutics of philosophical truth.

3. Examine existential notions of the ethical way of being such as 'the body', 'sexuality', 'friendship', 'marriage', 'entertainment', 'occupation', 'old age' and 'death' from a multicultural ethical perspective.
4. Evaluate critically key philosophical and ethical issues, practical and contemplative.
5. Determine essential meanings of virtue, ancient and contemporary.
6. Analyze and synthesize issues of identity and ethical determination.
7. Engage the dynamics of an ethical way of thought and life through an existential appropriation of everyday encounters with self and other.
8. Interpret spherically the ethical way of life as it relates to the everyday.

Course Content:

1. Introduction/ Philosophy and the human *bios*/ Ethical practice: *biosophy*/ the philosophical tradition and ethical theories/ Ethical predominance of the person/ how we ought to live? Ethical consciousness: meaning and historical understanding /Critical and contemplative thought.
2. The long search for the Origins of Ethics. A critical assessment of the ultimate ethical Good /Existence and philosophy of freedom/ the therapeutics of body and consciousness dichotomies/ *Philia* and *philosophia*: friendship with the body and mind/ against corruption and untruth. Plato, Aristotle, Mencius, Thomas Hobbes, Jean-Jacques Rousseau.
3. The long search for the origins of ethics: David Hume, Immanuel Kant, Karl Marx and Fr. Engels, Charles Darwin, Friedrich Nietzsche, Sigmund Freud, Carol Gilligan/ Learning and *ethos*/The *ethos* of lifelong learning/ The pedagogics of human freedom. Ethical learning; tenets of culture and knowledge.
4. Common Themes in Primate Ethics; Kinship, Reciprocity; The ethical distinction between sex and *eros*.
5. Sexual Morality. Incest and Adultery/ The Double Standard/ *Eros* and art: ennoblement, purification and elevation/ Platonic *Symposium* on the ethics of *eros*/ Ethics of love. Marriage and the ethical/ Reciprocal altruism/ Coexistence of desire, *eros* and love/ Social and cultural perspectives and dimensions on marriage/ Marriage and philosophical understandings.
6. The Role of Reason: D. Hume, Imman. Kant, G. W. F. Hegel, Henry Sidgwick, Edward Westermarck, Ludwig Wittgenstein. Some words on: friendship and the ethical/friendship—

- a treasure for the mature and worthy person/Plato (*Republic*) and Aristotle (*Nicomachean Ethics*) on friendship/friendship and the state/friendship and political action.
7. The Role of Reason: Jean-Paul Sartre, Thomas Nagel, J. L. Mackie,, Colin McGinn, Virginia Held, Michael Smith. Some words on Existential Reason: Old Age, the failure or crowning of the ethical way of life (Plato's *Republic*)/The Integrated or un-integrated life, peace or stagnancy and bitterness/inactivity, memory, will power, consciousness, spirit and ethos/Moral dilemmas of old age/Old age and Justice (Buddha and Plato's *Apology*).
 8. Ultimate Good: The Buddha, Aristotle, Epicurus, Epictetus, Jesus, W. E. H. Lecky, Voltaire, Jeremy Bentham, John Stuart Mill.
 9. Ultimate Good: William James, Henry Sidgwick, G. E. Moore, M. K. Gandhi, Aldous Huxley, Albert Camus, Robert Nozick, John Finnis, Derek Parfit. A few words on: Addiction and consciousness/ Despair and responsibility/ the inner dynamics, psychology of change and the ethical power that supports it/ the wisdom of the human psyche/ the consciousness of truth and emotional dilemmas.
 10. Natural Law, Natural Rights: Theory and Criticism: Thomas Aquinas, John Locke, The Vatican, John Finnis, Robert Nozick, Gerald Kelly, Blaise Paschal, Jeremy Bentham, John Stuart Mill. Some words on: The spectrum of dishonesty and the appropriation of truth/ The way of truth and the labyrinth of illusion/ The creative life and a life without the muses/ Disharmony, discord, conflict and incongruities/ The ethics of agreeable and disagreeable attitude/The ethics of overcoming negativity and disillusionment/ The virtuous way of life.
 11. Consequentialism: Theory: Jeremy Bentham, William Godwin, Henry Sidgwick, J. J. C. Smart, R. M. Hare. Criticism: Fyodor Dostoevsky, W. D. Ross, John Rawls, Bernard Williams, Susan Wolf.
 12. Closing Remarks: The movement from slavery to the fluidity of an ethical way of life/ Psychology and ethics of sickness/ Doctor of moral truth/ Justice and the rights of persons/ Abortion/Rights of animals/ The natural and moral law/ Buddhist Ethics. The metaphysical and practical dimensions of the reality of death (Plato's *Apology*)/ Death and the ethical/ Investigating past and present/ Suicide and heroism/ Euthanasia.

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lecture, individual and group feedback, dialogical discussions, multimedia (youtube) presentations of ethical ways of life.

Assessment Methods:

Participation and Homework, Midterm, Final Exam.

Required Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Ethics	P. Singer	Oxford Reader	1994	9780192892454

Recommended Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Greek Philosophy and the Problems of our Epoch (Greek)	K. Boudouris (ed.)	Ionia Publications	2009	9789607670717
Ethics: History, Theory, and Contemporary Issues	S. M. Cahn & P. Markie	Oxford University Press	2002	0195142004
Beyond Good and Evil (Greek)	R. A. Howard & C. D. Corver	Published by Authors	2008	9781422121061
Ethics for the New Millennium	Dalai Lama	Berkley Publishing	1999	1573228834
Ethics: The Essential Writings	G. Marino (ed.)	Modern Library	2010	9780812977783