



<b>Course Code</b> PHIL-120DL	<b>Course Title</b> Ethics	<b>ECTS Credits</b> 6 / 3
<b>Department</b> Social Sciences	<b>Semester</b> Fall and Spring	<b>Prerequisites</b> None
<b>Type of Course</b> Elective	<b>Field</b> General Education	<b>Language of Instruction</b> English
<b>Level of Course</b> Undergraduate	<b>Year of Study</b> 1st – 4th	<b>Lecturer(s)</b> Dr Pavlos E. Michaelides
<b>Mode of Delivery</b> Distance Learning	<b>Work Placement</b> N/A	<b>Co-requisites</b> None

**Objectives of the Course:**

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 Contents:

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/reading:**

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
P. Singer	Ethics	Oxford Reader	1994	9780192892454

**Recommended Textbooks/Reading:**

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