

Course Outline (Higher Education)

School:	School of Arts
Course Title:	ETHICS, NATURE AND HUMAN FLOURISHING: CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHIES OF VALUE
Course ID:	BAPHL3001
Credit Points:	15.00
Prerequisite(s):	(BAKIP1001 or PHILO1002 or SOSCI1002) (At least 30 credit points from BAHIS or BAKIP or BAPHL or BASOC or HISGL or HISOC or INDOL or INDSL or PHIGL or PHILO or PHSGL or SOCIO or SOSCI subject-area at 2000-2999 level)
Co-requisite(s):	Nil
Exclusion(s):	(BAPHL2001)
ASCED Code:	091701

Description of the Course :

Human beings do not seek only to survive: they want to live well. But what is the difference between a life well lived and a life that is merely lived? This course explores a range of contemporary perspectives in the philosophy of value, examining current debates on ethics, the natural world, human nature, animal ethics, and what it is for human beings to flourish.

Students in this course will engage with problems regarding the reality of value, asking whether values are part of the objective world, or if they are only constructions. We will ask whether there are ethical theories that can provide moral guidance, or if moral experience resists theory. We will explore the extent to which accounts of human flourishing must be grounded in understandings of human nature. We will examine ideas in animal ethics and human ecology, asking what it means to live ethically as the natural creatures we are. We will also engage with the philosophy of art and literature, examining whether and how literary works can help us develop rational understandings of what makes human life worth living, and worth living well.

Grade Scheme: Graded (HD, D, C, etc.)

Supplementary Assessment: Yes

Where supplementary assessment is available a student must have failed overall in the course but gained a final mark of 45 per cent or above and submitted all major assessment tasks..

Program Level:

AQF Level of Program						
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Level						
Introductory	■	■	■	■	■	■
Intermediate	■	■	■	■	■	■
Advanced	■	■	✓	■	■	■

Course Outline (Higher Education)

BAPHL3001 ETHICS, NATURE AND HUMAN FLOURISHING: CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHIES OF VALUE

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge:

- K1.** Ability to fluently restate and discuss the nature and significance of selected contemporary philosophies of value.
- K2.** Explain, differentiate, and classify contemporary views on at least three of the following philosophical issues: the metaphysical status of values; the role of ethical theories in moral life; human nature and human flourishing; living well with nature; animal ethics; and the role of aesthetic experience in ethical life.

Skills:

- S1.** Analyse and interpret philosophical texts in order to clarify their structure, express their main arguments and conclusions, and highlight their complexities.
- S2.** Examine and evaluate the arguments and conclusions of contemporary philosophers.
- S3.** Prepare, refine, and express sophisticated written arguments concerning the correct interpretation philosophical texts on values, following disciplinary norms for the construction of such arguments.
- S4.** Present and defend oral opinions on philosophical and interpretative questions arising from deep engagement with philosophical texts on values.

Application of knowledge and skills:

- A1.** Recognise and reflect on different philosophical accounts of ethics, human nature, human flourishing, and the good life.
- A2.** Articulate a sophisticated philosophical position in verbal or written form, demonstrating proficiency with the conventions and techniques of philosophical scholarship.

Course Content:

Philosophers and writers to be studied may include: J. L. Mackie; Simon Blackburn; John McDowell; Alice Crary; Peter Singer; Christine Korsgaard; Philippa Foot; Elizabeth Anscombe; Bernard Williams; Mark Thompson; Carleton B. Christensen; Herbert Marcuse; David Leopold; Cora Diamond; Raimond Gaita; Stephen Mulhall; J. M. Coetzee; Franz Kafka; Rosalind Hursthouse; Stanley Cavell; and Martha Nussbaum.

Topics may include:

- The metaphysics of value: skepticism about moral reality; non-cognitivism; and moral realism (Mackie, Blackburn, McDowell, Crary)
- Normative ethics: consequentialism; deontology; virtue ethics; and anti-theoretical approaches (Singer, Korsgaard, Anscombe, Williams)
- Human nature and ethical naturalism (Thompson, Foot, Anscombe, McDowell)
- Theories of human flourishing: neo-Aristotelian; Marxian; and ecological theories (Hursthouse, Foot, Christensen, Marcuse, Leopold)
- Our kinship with animals (Singer, Diamond, Gaita, Mulhall, Coetzee, Kafka, Crary)
- The role of art and literature in living well (Crary, Diamond, Nussbaum, Mulhall, Cavell, Coetzee, Kafka).

Values:

- V1.** Develop a deeper understanding of the role of value in a range of different practical and theoretical contexts
- V2.** Recognise and respect the variety of perspectives on values

Course Outline (Higher Education)

BAPHL3001 ETHICS, NATURE AND HUMAN FLOURISHING: CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHIES OF VALUE

- V3.** Challenge commonly held views about the nature of values, human nature, animal ethics, and human flourishing
- V4.** Develop an awareness of the relevance of philosophy for contemporary debates about morality, nature, art, and human flourishing
- V5.** Respect the procedures of disciplined philosophical argumentation
- V6.** Cultivate an ethical sensibility and readiness to navigate a world of profound moral challenges.

Graduate Attributes:

FedUni graduate attributes statement. To have graduates with knowledge, skills and competence that enable them to stand out as critical, creative and enquiring learners who are capable, flexible and work ready, and responsible, ethical and engaged citizens.

Attribute	Brief Description	Focus
Knowledge, skills and competence	Students develop a deep understanding of how concepts of ethics, human nature, and human flourishing are informed by philosophical theories, and are constructed, contested and articulated in different contexts	High
Critical, creative and enquiring learners	Students refine their attitudes of inquiry into the ideas about value, and develop advanced abilities in critically interrogating texts and arguments	High
Capable, flexible and work ready	Students refine communication skills and their critical awareness regarding values. They practise sophisticated critical and creative reading and thinking skills transferable to a range of study, employment, and personal contexts	Low
Responsible, ethical and engaged citizens	Students reflect on and gain respect for differing philosophical frameworks and their implications for societal norms regarding values, human nature, and flourishing. They cultivate ethical sensibilities, preparing themselves to navigate a world of profound moral challenges	High

Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Learning Tasks	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, K2, S1, S3, A1, A2	Demonstrate advanced critical understanding of key concepts, arguments and texts	Comprehension exercise	30-40%
K1, K2, S1, S2, S3, A1, A2	Analysis, research, and argument. Develop and defend a sophisticated position on a contested philosophical topic by marshalling support, comparing competing viewpoints, and drawing conclusions	Research essay	35-45%

Course Outline (Higher Education)

BAPHL3001 ETHICS, NATURE AND HUMAN FLOURISHING: CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHIES OF VALUE

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Learning Tasks	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, S1, S2, S4, A1, A2	Make knowledgeable contributions to course activities and discussion. Discuss course texts and ideas in a clear and coherent manner. Orally present ideas and arguments showing an advanced understanding of one course topic selected in consultation with the course coordinator. Engage respectfully with other students	Participation, contribution, and oral presentation	20-30%

Adopted Reference Style:

Chicago