

Course Outline

School / Portfolio: Faculty of Education and Arts

Course Title: PRACTICAL ETHICS

Course ID: PHILO1004

Credit Points: 15.00

Prerequisite(s): Nil

Co-requisite(s): Nil

Exclusion(s): Nil

ASCED Code: 091701

Program Level:

AQF Level of Program						
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Level						
Introductory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intermediate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advanced	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge:

- K1.** Understand ethical principles, obligations, and arguments.
- K2.** Recognise the requirements and process of ethical reasoning.
- K3.** Identify, analyse, evaluate and critically engage with contemporary ethical dilemmas and debates.

Skills:

- S1.** Analyse ethical principles, dilemmas and debates from an informed perspective
- S2.** Demonstrate the skills involved in ethical reasoning.
- S3.** Undertake independent research to deepen critical understanding of ethical principles and arguments.

Application of knowledge and skills:

- A1.** Recognise and reflect on the relation between ethical principles and arguments and contemporary ethical dilemmas.
- A2.** Construct, communicate and evaluate ethical issues and arguments in verbal and written modes.
- A3.** Reflect on the relation between personal and societal values and ethical principles and arguments.

Course Content:

This course explores the resources at our disposal to address contemporary ethical issues. It will begin with an introduction to ethical reasoning and the remainder of the course will be devoted to both understanding

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and responding to the problematic of some of the pressing ethical questions of our day. In particular, it will focus upon two key areas of practical ethics: Bioethics and Social Ethics.

Questions that may be considered include: How should we treat non-human animals? Do we have any moral obligations with regards to environmental issues, and if so, to whom? What are our ethical obligations in the light of new biotechnologies? Is stem cell research morally acceptable? Is euthanasia in any of its various forms morally permissible? Is a human foetus a person with a right to life, and if so, does that mean that abortion is always morally impermissible? Do we have any moral obligations to help the poor and starving? How should we deal with issues around aging? What global responsibilities do we have?

Values and Graduate Attributes:

Values:

- V1.** Develop an awareness of the problems faced in the field of practical ethics
- V2.** Develop an awareness of the connection between ethical thought and issues in everyday life.
- V3.** Respect the procedures of applied ethical questioning and reasoning, with specific reference to contemporary ethical dilemmas
- V4.** Recognise the variety of perspectives on and critical approaches to ethical issues

Graduate Attributes:

Attribute	Brief Description	Focus
Continuous Learning	Students will continuously develop skills in comprehension, critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and creative thinking	High
Self Reliance	Students will build on their skills in continuous learning, personal organisation, communication, independent thinking, initiative, and creativity	Medium
Engaged Citizenship	Students will develop new skills in the critical analysis of and possible contributions to debates regarding contemporary ethical dilemmas	High
Social Responsibility	Students will work to gain an understanding of ethical concerns and the role of the individual in striving to build a more ethical society	High

Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Assessment Task	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, K2, K3, S1, S2, A1, A2, A3	Identification and analysis of current ethical dilemmas and the expression of this understanding clearly and concisely.	Journal	20-30%
K1, S1, A2	Articulate understanding of key concepts and their importance in ethical reasoning.	Tests.	15-20%
K2, K3, S1, S2, S3, A1, A2, A3	Analysis and research of a contemporary ethical dilemma; develop and defend a position regarding this dilemma.	Research project.	30-40%
K1, K2, K3, S1, S2, S3, A1, A2, A3	Present ideas and arguments pertinent to a contemporary ethical dilemma.	Presentation.	10-15%

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Learning Outcomes Assessed	Assessment Task	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, K2, K3, S1, S2, A1, A2, A3	Make informed contributions to course activities and discussion; discuss ethical issues in a clear and coherent manner.	Participation and contribution.	5-10%

Adopted Reference Style:

Chicago