

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY
DHAKA, BANGLADESH

Semester: Spring 2016

Course Code: **PHI 104** (Section: 2)

Class Time: ST 04.20 PM-05.50 PM

Course Title: Introduction to Ethics

Class Room: NAC 216

Course Teacher: Professor Dr. Md. Munir H. Talukder

Office Hour: 12.40 PM-02.40 PM

Contact No. 01712722244

Office Room: NAC 1040

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Course Description: Ethics is the study of morality, moral principles and moral judgments. Ethicists help us to understand moral problems, moral dilemmas and moral issues concerning our life, professions and society. Ethics is about what is good, bad, right and wrong. Ethics provides us a clear conception of good life and suggests us what we should do to be a good human being. This course is an introduction to ethics and ethicists. In this course, our focus will be ethical principles, ethical standards and analysis of ethical issues in our practical life. A detail analysis of some ethical theories, ethical concepts and their application will guide our discussion. What is ethics? What is morality? What is a good life? What is the appropriate ethical principle that we should follow? We will study these questions and observe how the great ethicists like Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Jeremy Bentham, John Stuart Mill and Immanuel Kant have discussed these issues in their own ways. Why is ethics necessary in a society and what should be the basis of ethical activities? We will find these answers in the discussion of ethics as well as applied ethics where ethical principles are applied. We will also consider how ethical reasoning is important in the life issues, business, medical, engineering and the environment context.

In this course, apart from reading introductory textbooks, students are required to read a few sections from original works of ethicists so that they have an opportunity to interpret original texts with their own arguments and position.

Objectives:

1. Introduction to what ethics is and why it is valuable.
2. Introduction to ethical concepts, methods and ideas.
3. Introduction to various ethicists and their thoughts.

4. Introduction to original texts and encourage students to read part of them.
5. Train-up students to construct their own ethical views critically, logically and coherently.

Outcomes:

1. Ability to understand the nature of ethical thinking.
2. Ability to identify, explain and use ethical concepts in real life.
3. Ability to analyze ethical problems and offer a justified own view.
4. Ability to identify some key moral philosophers in the West and be familiar about their thoughts and reasoning in shaping a good society.
5. Ability to apply critical reasoning and be a critical thinker.

Books Recommended:

Textbook: Lee Archie and John G. Archie, *Introduction to Ethical Studies: An Open Source Reader*, Version 0.11 Edition, August 2003; available online at: <http://philosophy.lander.edu/ethics/ethicsbook.pdf>;

Reference Books:

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy Available: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-deontological/>

Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy Available: <https://www.rep.routledge.com/articles/ethics>

Marks Distribution, Examinations and Assignments:

Midterm Exam-1	25
Midterm Exam-2	25
Quiz	10
Presentation	05
Attendance &	
Class Participation	05
Final Exam	30
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Total	100

The **first midterm exam** will be held on the day of Lecture 9 and the **second midterm exam** will be held on the day of Lecture 17. The **quiz-type exam** will be held on the day of Lecture 20. A brief **presentation** of a philosophical topic chosen by the students will be held on the day of Lecture 21 and onwards. The date of **final examination** will be scheduled by the university authority.

Grading:

<u>Numerical Scores</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Grade Points</u>
93 and above	A	4.0
90-92	A–	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
83-86	B	3.0
80-82	B–	2.7
77-79	C+	2.3
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C–	1.7
67-69	D+	1.3
60-66	D	1.0
Below 60	F* Failure	0.0

Important Notes for Students:

- (i) Students should **attend all lectures** during the semester, as no make-up / re-take examination / assignment will be allowed. Absence in three consecutive classes may result drop from a course.
- (ii) **Any missed examination/assignment will be considered as a zero credit point.** A student who knows of necessary class absences should consult the instructor in advance.
- (iii) **Any academic dishonesty** such as, plagiarism, copying from another student's paper, cheating in examination **may cause an F grade in the course.**
- (iv) Students are advised to **read university policies carefully** regarding examinations and academic honesty.

Lecture Distribution:

Lecture	Topics
Lecture 1	Ethics, Ethicists and Ethical Expertise
Lecture 2	Ethics and Moral Philosophy
Lecture 3	The Development of Morality
Lecture 4	The Development of Ethical Theory
Lecture 5	Autonomy
Lecture 6	Rights
Lecture 7	Utilitarianism [Midterm 1]
Lecture 8	Utilitarianism : Bentham
Lecture 9	Utilitarianism : Mill
Lecture 10	Deontological Ethics
Lecture 11	Kantian Ethics
Lecture 12	Kant's Moral Law
Lecture 13	Virtue Ethics
Lecture 14	Aristotle's virtue ethics
Lecture 15	Application of ethical theories [Midterm 2]
Lecture 16	Beginning and End of life issues
Lecture 17	Personhood
Lecture 18	Obligations to Future Generations
Lecture 19	Business ethics [Quiz]
Lecture 20	Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) [Presentation]
Lecture 21	Computer Ethics I [Presentation]

Lecture 22	Computer ethics II [Presentation]
Lecture 23	Environmental ethics [Presentation]
Lecture 24	Animal rights [Review & Self-evaluation of the course]
Final Exam	As scheduled by the university