**ITB 219 E ETHICS**

Fall 2021-2021 Monday 8:30-11:30 MED- B37

*Office*: # B4-320 Dept. Humanities and Social Sciences, FEB

Office Hours: Tuesday 12.30-1400 or by appointment

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**Course Overview**

This course will introduce students to various contemporary problems in moral philosophy, the ethical theories that address them and the historical and intellectual origins of these theories. Students will become aware with many ethical approaches to deciding what is “right” and “wrong” in human behavior. The course begins with a look at the most influential ethical theories, each intended to provide a framework for moral decision-making. The second part of the course involves discussion of many controversial issues, such as equality, economic justice, punishment, animal rights, environmental ethics, global inequalities, violence, terrorism and war the taking of human life, sexual behavior, abortion, etc. Each week of the course includes a theoretical reading about a certain school of thought, argument, position or issue and a selection of classic moral texts that accompany the theoretical part.

**Course Goals/Objectives**

This course is intended to help students improve some of their skills. These skills include the following:

* the ability to read, analyze, and critique moral philosophy texts and to demonstrate knowledge of major arguments and problems in ethics.
* the ability generate, explore, organize, and present well reasoned ethical ideas in writing,
* the ability to define and appropriately use important ethical terms such as happiness, virtue, duty, rights, natural autonomy, and respect.,
* the ability to examine a variety of perspectives in the global community, distinguish your own cultural patterns, and respond flexibly to multiple worldviews,
* the ability to develop and apply a combination of knowledge and skills to demonstrate an understanding of ethical responsibility,
* the ability to apply ethical concepts, principles and theories to address moral concerns.
* the ability to develop arguments to support one’s position on controversial moral issues.

**Course Structure and Methodology**

The course will be a mixture of students’ presentations, lectures and discussions. The intention is to provide students with an overview of the concept for that week and then to discuss the issues question in the lecture. This is also a seminar course that is intended to facilitate discussion of the core readings for that week. For this reason, students are expected to have carefully read and be ready to discuss all assigned readings before the class in which they will be covered.

The lectures will begin with a brief presentation on the set readings. The aim here is to provide background for clarification of theoretical arguments and concepts that are revealed in the readings. In classes students are encouraged to participate as fully as possible. Each student is expected to contribute to the discussion, and thus each student is expected to be prepared to ask questions and discuss the assigned readings on each day, and whether or not the student is presenting that day. Please be attentive to standard rules of decorum: respect the contribution of others, try to move class discussion forward (pay attention to what others say and respond to the previous point), avoid dogmatism, and so forth.

**Attendance:**

**ATTENDANCE IS NOT OPTIONAL BUT STRICTLY REQUIRED.** The attendance policy is rigid and students will be penalized some fraction of a grade or failed based purely on attendance.

Class attendance will be taken each week. It is the responsibility of student to be sure that his/her attendance has been recorded. You are allowed maximum 3 unexcused absences; but, please note that every absence will have a negative effect on your grade. Students with 4 **absences** will receive an **FAIL**. In the case of illness or an emergency situation, official documentation must be provided to grant an excused absence. However, in the case of chronic illness or personal emergencies which require prolonged or frequent absences, the student should withdraw from this course and repeat it when circumstances allow for the fulfillment of course requirements.

Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is required to contact the Office of Disable Student (ODS) Office located on ITU campus to schedule an appointment with the Coordinator of ODS. Because DOS accommodations may require early planning and are not provided retroactively, students are encouraged to contact DOS as early in the semester as possible.

**Oral Presentation**:

Each student will give two 20-30 minutes PowerPoint presentations on assigned readings. ***(Presentations will be assigned at the beginning of the semester.)*** Students are expected to demonstrate adequate understanding and critical evaluation of the readings by providing coherent summaries *and* by facilitating classroom discussion. **Anyone who misses their presentation without advanced notice or medical report will be given minus 10 marks.**

**In-Class Oral Exams:**

There will be two in-class oral exams (worth 15 points each) that involve presenting a critical analysis, using the ethical theories taught and applying them to a particular problem with a critical reasoning and conclusion.

**The final exam:**

There will be a final 2-hour examination in this course. Date, time and place of the exam will be scheduled by the Office of Students affairs. The exam will consist of set of short essay questions. You will be given a list of study questions in advance, and the exam questions will be drawn from this list. You will be asked to choose and answer 2 of the 3 that I will have chosen.

**Assessment methods:**

Your final grade for the class will be based on four sets of class examination 60%, oral presentation (10%), attendance, participation, and discussion (10%) and final exam 40%.

Attendance and Participation 10%

Presentation 10%

In-Class 40%

Final Exam 40%

**Following grade scale will be used:**

| **ITU****Numerical** | **ITU Letters** | **Other Equivalences** | **System of 100** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 4,0 | AA | 5 | Exceptional and Excellent performance | ≥ 3,75 | 94-100 |
| 3,5 | BA |  | Very Good | 3,74-3,50 | 88-93 |
| 3,0 | BB | 4 | Good | 3,49-3,0 | 77-87 |
| 2,5 | CB | 3 | Solid Satisfactory Performance | 2,99-2,50 | 65-76 |
| 2,0 | CC | 2 | Satisfactory | 2,49-2,0 | 54-64 |
| 1,5 | DC | 1 | MarginalPerformance | 1,99-1,50 | 42-53 |
| 1,0 | DD |  | ConditionalPerformance (Pass) | 1,49-1,0 | 30-41 |
|  | FF |  | Unsatisfactory performance (Fail) | <1,0 | 0-29 |

**Required Texts**

Russ Shafer Landau, *Living Ethics: An Introduction with Readings* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018).

Course reader packet can also be purchased at the at the photocopy shop in Faculty of Science and Letters Building.

**Additional readings**

Barbara Mackinnon and Andrew Fiala, *Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues*, 8th ed., (Stanford, CT: Cengage Learning, 2015).

Julian Baggini, Peter Fosl, *The Ethics Toolkit: A Compendium of Ethical Concepts and Methods* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2007)

Lawrence Hinman, *Contemporary Moral Issues*: *Diversity and Consensus*, (New York: Prentice Hall, 2005)

Mark Timmons, *Moral Theory: An Introduction* (New York: Rowman Littlefield, 2002)

Russ Shafer-Landau, The Ethical Life: Fundamental Readings in Ethics and Moral Problems, 4th Edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012)

Russ Shafer-Landau, *The Fundamentals of Ethics*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012)

Steven M. Cahn & Peter Mackie, *Ethics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006)

**Lecture Schedule**

**PART 1. MORAL THEORY**

**Week 1: What Is Morality?**

*Russ Shafer Landau***, Chapter 1:** Conventional and Critical Morality

* The Branches of Moral Philosophy
* Moral Starting Points
* Morality and Other Normative Systems
* Morality and Religion

**Week 2: Moral Reasoning and Skepticism about Morality**

*Russ Shafer Landau****,* Chapter 2: Moral Reasoning**

* Validity and Soundness
* Necessary and Sufficient Conditions
* Valid Argument Forms
* Fallacies

*Russ Shafer Landau***, Chapter 3: Skepticism about Morality**

* Egoism
* Relativism
* Error Theory

**Readings**

* Mary Midgley, Trying Out One's New Sword
* J. L. Mackie, The Subjectivity of Values

**Week 3:** **The Good Life and Consequentialism**

*Russ Shafer Landau***, Chapter 4: The Good Life**

* Hedonism
* Desire Satisfaction Theory

**Readings**

* John Stuart Mill, Hedonism
* Robert Nozick, The Experience Machine

*Russ Shafer Landau****,* Chapter 5: Consequentialism**

* The Nature of Consequentialism
* The Attractions of Utilitarianism
* Some Difficulties for Utilitarianism

**Reading**

* John Stuart Mill, Utilitarianism

**Week 4: Deontological Ethics**

*Russ Shafer Landau****,* Chapter 6: Kantian Ethics**

* Consistency and Fairness
* The Principle of Universalizability
* Hypothetical and Categorical Imperatives
* Assessing the Principle of Universalizability
* Kant on Absolute Moral Duties and The Principle of Humanity

**Reading**

* Immanuel Kant, The Good Will and the Categorical Imperative

**Week 5: Social Contract Theory and Natural Law**

*Russ Shafer Landau****,* Chapter 7: Social Contract Theory**

* The Background of the Social Contract Theory
* The Prisoner's Dilemma
* Cooperation and the State of Nature
* The Advantages of Contractarianism
* The Role of Consent
* Disagreement among the Contractors

**Reading**

* Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan

Russ Shafer Landau**, Chapter 8: Natural Law**

* The Theory and Its Attractions
* Three Conceptions of Human Nature
* Natural Purposes
* The Doctrine of Double Effect

**Reading**

* Thomas Aquinas, Natural Law

**Week 6: Virtue Ethics and the Ethics of Care**

*Russ Shafer Landau****,* Chapter 10: Virtue Ethics**

* The Standard of Right Action
* Moral Complexity
* Moral Understanding
* The Nature of Virtue
* Does Virtue Ethics Offer Adequate Moral Guidance?
* Who Are the Moral Role Models?
* Conflict and Contradiction
* The Priority Problem

**Reading**

* Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics

*Russ Shafer Landau***, Chapter 11: Feminist Ethics and the Ethics of Care**

* The Elements of Feminist Ethics
* The Ethics of Care
* The Importance of Emotions
* Against Unification
* Partiality and Concreteness
* Downplaying Rights
* Challenges for Feminist Ethics

**Readings**

* Hilde Lindemann, What Is Feminist Ethics?

**Week 7: The Ethic of Prima Facie Duties**

*Russ Shafer Landau****,* Chapter 9: The Ethic of Prima Facie Duties**

* Ethical Pluralism and Prima Facie Duties
* The Advantages of Ross's View
* A Problem for Ross's View
* Prima Facie Duties and the Testing of Moral Theories
* Knowing the Right Thing to Do

**Reading**

* W. D. Ross, What Makes Right Actions Right?

**PART II. MORAL PROBLEMS**

**Week 8: Animal Rights and Environment**

*Russ Shafer Landau***, Chapter 13: Animals**

* Just the Facts
* Argument Analysis
* Conclusion
* Essential Concepts
* Stat Shot
* Cases for Critical Thinking

**Readings**

* Peter Singer, All Animals Are Equal
* Tom Regan, The Case for Animal Rights
* Mary Anne Warren, Difficulties with the Strong Animal Rights Position
* Alastair Norcross, Puppies, Pigs, and People: Eating Meat and Marginal Cases
* R. G. Frey, Moral Standing, the Value of Lives, and Speciesism

*Russ Shafer Landau***, Chapter 14: The Environment**

* Just the Facts
* Argument Analysis
* Essential Concepts
* Stat Shot
* Cases for Critical Thinking

**Readings**

* Paul Taylor, The Ethics of Respect for Nature
* Thomas Hill, Jr., Ideals of Human Excellence and Preserving Natural Environments
* Eric A. Posner and Cass R. Sunstein, Climate Change Justice
* Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, It's Not My Fault: Global Warming and Individual Moral Obligations

**Week 9:** **Abortion and Euthanasia**

Russ Shafer Landau**, Chapter 12: Abortion**

* Just the Facts
* Argument Analysis
* Conclusion
* Essential Concepts
* Stat Shot
* Cases for Critical Thinking

**Readings**

* John Noonan, An Almost Absolute Value in History
* Judith Jarvis Thomson, A Defense of Abortion
* Mary Anne Warren, On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion
* Don Marquis, Why Abortion Is Immoral

*Russ Shafer Landau***, Chapter 15: Euthanasia**

* Just the Facts
* Argument Analysis
* Conclusion
* Essential Concepts
* Stat Shot
* Cases for Critical Thinking

**Readings**

* James Rachels, The Morality of Euthanasia
* Leon R. Kass, Why Doctors Must Not Kill
* Peter Singer, Justifying Voluntary Euthanasia

**Week 10: Economic Justice and Economic Inequality**

*Russ Shafer Landau****,* Chapter 16: Economic Justice and Economic Inequality**

* Just the Facts
* Argument Analysis
* Essential Concepts
* Cases for Critical Thinking

**Readings**

* John Rawls, A Theory of Justice
* Robert Nozick, The Entitlement Theory of Justice
* Harry Frankfurt, Equality as a Moral Ideal
* Elizabeth Anderson, How Not to Complain about Taxes

**Week 11: Globalization, Immigration and Racism**

*Russ Shafer Landau****,* Chapter17: Globalization and Immigration**

* Just the Facts
* Argument Analysis
* Essential Concepts
* Stat Shot
* Cases for Critical Thinking

**Readings**

* Peter Singer, The Singer Solution to World Poverty
* Onora O'Neill, A Kantian Approach to Famine Relief
* Thomas Pogge, Human Rights and Global Wrongs
* Michael Huemer, Is There a Right to Immigrate?
* David Miller, Immigration: The Case for Limits

*Russ Shafer Landau****,* Chapter 18: The Legacy of Racism**

* Just the Facts
* Argument Analysis
* Essential Concepts
* Cases for Critical Thinking

**Readings**

* J. Angelo Corlett, Reparations to Native Americans?
* Daniel M. Hausman Affirmative Action: Bad Arguments and Some Good Ones
* Elizabeth Anderson, The Future of Racial Integration
* Tommie Shelby, Justice, Deviance, and the Dark Ghetto
* Chris Lebron, Time for a New Black Radicalism

**Week 12: Terrorism and the Death Penalty**

*Russ Shafer Landau****,* Chapter 19: Terrorism**

* Just the Facts
* Argument Analysis
* Essential Concepts
* Stat Shot
* Cases for Critical Thinking

**Readings**

* Michael Walzer, Terrorism: A Critique of Excuses
* Virginia Held, Terrorism and War
* Lionel K. McPherson, Is Terrorism Distinctively Wrong?
* Stephen Nathanson, Can Terrorism Be Morally Justified?

*Russ Shafer Landau****,* Chapter 20: The Death Penalty**

* Just the Facts
* Argument Analysis
* Essential Concepts
* Cases for Critical Thinking

**Readings**

* Ernst van den Haag, On Deterrence and the Death Penalty
* Jeffrey H. Reiman, Civilization, Safety, and Deterrence
* Igor Primoratz, Justifying Legal Punishment
* Stephen Nathanson, An Eye for an Eye?

**Week 13: Drugs and Genetic Engineering**

*Russ Shafer Landau****,* Chapter 21: Drugs**

* Just the Facts
* Argument Analysis
* Essential Concepts
* Stat Shot
* Cases for Critical Thinking

**Readings**

* Peter de Marneffe, Against the Legalization of Drugs
* Michael Huemer, America's Unjust Drug War
* Robert E. Goodin, Permissible Paternalism: Saving Smokers from Themselves

*Russ Shafer Landau****,* Chapter 22: Genetic Engineering**

* Just the Facts
* Argument Analysis
* Essential Concepts
* Stat Shot
* Cases for Critical Thinking

**Readings**

* Michael Sandel, The Case Against Perfection
* Julian Savulescu, Genetic Interventions and the Ethics of Enhancement of Human Beings
* Roberta Millstein, GMOs? Not So Fast
* Gary Comstock, Ethics and Genetically Modified Foods

**Week 14: Sexual Morality**

*Russ Shafer Landau****,* Chapter 23: Sexual Morality**

* Just the Facts
* Argument Analysis
* Essential Concepts
* Stat Shot
* Cases for Critical Thinking

**Readings**

* John Corvino, Why Shouldn't Tommy and Jim Have Sex? A Defense of Homosexuality
* Maggie Gallagher, Normal Marriage: Two Views
* Raja Halwani, Virtue Ethics, Casual Sex, and Objectification
* Nicholas Dixon, Alcohol and Rape
* Martha C. Nussbaum, "Whether from Reason or Prejudice": Taking Money for Bodily