

**University of Mumbai**  
**Sophia College for Women (Autonomous)**  
**Syllabus for FYBA PHILOSOPHY PAPER 1**  
w.e.f. June 2018-19

**SEMESTER 1: Ethics Theory and Action**

**Course code: SBAPHI101**

**External Assessment: 75 marks**

**Internal Assessment: 25 marks**

**Unit 1 Nature of philosophy**

Philosophy and science; philosophy and religion; philosophical and non-philosophical questions; open and closed questions. Branches of philosophy: metaphysics (philosophy of science, philosophy of religion, philosophy of mind), epistemology (rationalism, empiricism, scepticism, logic and language) and ethics. Nature of ethics; factual statements and value judgements; characteristics of moral judgements. Inductive and deductive reasoning in the context of ethics

**Unit 2: Utilitarianism and Deontology**

J.S. Mill version of Utilitarianism; Rule and Act Utilitarianism; critical appraisal of consequentialism Deontological ethics: Immanuel Kant: the notion of Goodwill , hypothetical and categorical imperative Two formulations of the categorical imperative: (i) Universal law (ii) Respect for persons; critical appraisal of deontological ethics

**Unit3 Ethics in Action I: Punishment**

The philosophical problem in punishment Deontological defense of punishment: retributivism and revenge; critical appraisal Utilitarian defense of punishment: deterrence and reformation; critical appraisal. The debate on capital punishment: abolitionists versus retentionists.

**Unit 4 Does morality depend on religion? (INTERNAL ASSESSMENT)**

Relationship between morality and religion; divine command ethics, Natural Law ethics

**SEMESTER 2: Ethics Theory and Action**

**Course code: SBAPHI201**

**External Assessment: 75 marks**

**Internal Assessment: 25 marks**

**Unit 1: Egoism: Psychological and Ethical**

Thomas Hobbes version of psychological egoism General arguments in favour and against psychological egoism Ayn Rand's version of ethical egoism Arguments in favour and against ethical egoism

## **Unit 2: Existentialist and feminist ethics**

Existentialist ethics: Jean Paul Sartre: existence precedes essence, anguish and abandonment  
Sartre: Bad faith and authentic existence  
Feminist Ethics: Carol Gilligan: critique of Lawrence Kohlberg's moral development theory  
Ethics of care versus ethics of justice; Gilligan's account of ethics of care

## **Unit 3: Ethics in Action II: Euthanasia and Animal Rights**

Euthanasia: Types: active and passive, voluntary and non-voluntary. Should euthanasia be legalized? Arguments in favour and against euthanasia. Animal welfare and rights: Utilitarian view: Peter Singer. Animal rights: Deontological view: Tom Reagan

## **Unit 4: Ethical Relativism (INTERNAL ASSESSMENT)**

Ruth Benedict, "Moral Relativism"

James Rachels, "Challenge of Cultural Relativism"

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