

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

SEMESTER 1

Paper title: Ethics Theory and Action

Course code: SBAPHI101

External Assessment: 50 marks

Internal Assessment: 50 marks

Credits: 03

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To familiarise students with various moral theories, moral principles and approaches to the study of ethics
- 2) To develop in students the ability to critically analyse and evaluate philosophical arguments related to moral principles
- 3) To show how various moral theories and principles are used to deal with specific moral issues that arise in personal and social life.

COURSE OUTCOMES: After completion of the course, students should be able to:

- 1) Distinguish the discipline of philosophy from science and religion, and identify how philosophical questions are different from non-philosophical questions.
- 2) Differentiate the salient features of utilitarian moral principles from deontological moral principles with the aid of real-life examples and case studies
- 3) Apply moral principles of utilitarianism and deontology to dealing with crime and punishment.
- 4) Present arguments that contrast and compare morality to religion

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 (Internal Assessment)

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 1: Reference and Reading List

Unit 1: Philosophy and Ethics

----- Ray Billington, *Living Philosophy: An Introduction to Moral Thought*. 3rd edition, chapter 3 (factual and value judgements)

----- Richard Creel, *Thinking Philosophically: An Introduction to Philosophy*, chapter 5, pp.35-39 (Philosophy in relation to science)

----- Richard Field, *A Practical Guide to Ethical Theory*, chapter 1 (for philosophical reasoning)

----- Emmett Barcalow, *Open Questions: An Introduction to Philosophy*, chapter 1 (for philosophical reasoning)

----- Anne Thompson, *Critical Reasoning in Ethics*, chapter 1 (moral reasoning)

Unit 2: Happiness versus Duty

Essential References:

----- Barbara MacKinnon and Adrew Fiala, *Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues* 8th edition, chapter 5, pp. 91- 103 (utilitarianism) and chapter 6, pp.110-121 (for deontological ethics)

----- Steven Hales, *This is Philosophy*, chapter 2, pp.27- 52.

Additional References:

----- James Rachels, *Elements of Moral Philosophy*, 4th edition, chapter 7 and 8 (for Utilitarianism) and chapter 9 (for deontological ethics)

----- Paul Smith, *Moral and Political Philosophy*, chapter 10 (for utilitarianism) chapter 11 (deontological ethics)

Unit 3: Ethics in Action I: Punishment

----- Paul Smith, *Moral and Political Philosophy*, chapter 2

----- Torbjorn Tannsjo, *Understanding Ethics: An Introduction to Moral Theory*, pp. 66-69 (Kant's view)

----- Thom Brooks, *Punishment*, chapter 1 (for retributive), chapter 2 (for deterrence) and chapter 8 (for capital punishment)

Unit 4 Does morality depend on religion? (Internal Assessment)

----- James Rachels, *Elements of Moral Philosophy*, chapter 4

----- Movie: Frailty (2001)

SEMESTER 2

Paper title: Ethics Theory and Action

Course code: SBAPHI201

External Assessment: 50 marks

Internal Assessment: 50 marks

Credits: 03

COURSE OUTCOMES: After completion of the course, students should be able to:

- 1) Analyse the difference between psychological and ethical egoism in the work of Thomas Hobbes and Ayn Rand respectively.
- 2) Identify instances of existentialist and feminist approaches to moral issues via the ethics of Jean Paul Sartre and Carol Gilligan.
- 3) Apply moral principles of utilitarian and deontology to dealing with issues of euthanasia and animal rights
- 4) Describe, defend and critique the notion of ethical relativism

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 (INTERNAL ASSESSMENT)

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 Regan

Unit 4: Ethical Relativism (INTERNAL ASSESSMENT)

Semester 2: Reference and Reading List

Unit 1: Egoism: Psychological and ethical

Essential References:

----- Joel Feinberg, "Psychological Egoism" in *Ethical Theory: An Anthology* (2nd edition) edited Russ Shafer Landau, chapter 19.

----- James Rachels, "Ethical Egoism" in *Ethical Theory: An Anthology* (2nd edition) edited Russ Shafer Landau, chapter 21.

----- Ayn Rand, *The Virtue of Selfishness*, chapters 1 and 3.

Additional References:

----- James Rachels, *Elements of Moral Philosophy* 4th edition, chapter 5 (for Psychological Egoism) and chapter 6 (for Ethical Egoism)

----- Jacques Thiroux and Keith Krasemann, *Ethics: Theory and Practice*, Chapter 2 (see topics on psychological and ethical egoism)

Unit 2: Existentialist and feminist ethics

Essential References:

- Gordon Graham, *Theories of Ethics*, chapter 6, pp.63-76 (for Sartre’s view)
- James Rachels, *Elements of Moral Philosophy* 4th edition, chapter 12 (for ethics of care)
- Stephen Darwall, *Philosophical Ethics*, chapter 19 (for ethics of care)

Additional References:

- Torbjorn Tannsjo, *Understanding Ethics: An Introduction to Moral Theory*, chapter 7, pp. 105-119 (for ethics of Care)
- Barbara MacKinnon and Adrew Fiala, *Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues* 8th edition, chapter 9 (for ethics of care)

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

Essential References:

- Jacques Thiroux, *Ethics: Theory and Practice* chapter 10 (for euthanasia)
- Andew Kernohan, *Environmental Ethics: An Interactive Introduction* chapter 11 and 12 (for animal welfare/rights)

Additional References:

- Mark Rowlands, *Animal Rights: Moral Theory and Practice*, chapter 3 (Peter Singer) and chapter 4 (Tom Reagan)
- Jon Nuttal, *Moral Questions: An Introduction to Ethics*, chapter 10, pp.149-160 (for euthanasia) and chapter 12, pp. 178-193 (for animal rights)
- Barbara Mackinnon, *Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues* chapter 10 (for euthanasia)

Unit 4: Ethical Relativism: Internal Assessment

- James Rachels, *Elements of Moral Philosophy*, chapter 3
- Movie: Hotel Rwanda (2004)
