



SOPHIA COLLEGE, (AUTONOMOUS)

Affiliated to

UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI

Programme: B.A. in PHILOSOPHY

Programme Code: SBAPHI

FYBA

(Choice Based Credit System with effect from the year 2018-19)

Programme Outline : FYBA (SEMESTER I)

Course Code	Unit No	Name of the Unit	Credits
SBAPHI101		Ethics: Theory and Action	4
	1	Nature of Philosophy	
	2	Utilitarianism and Deontology	
	3	Ethics in Action	
	4	Does Morality depend on Religion?	

Programme Outline : FYBA (SEMESTER II)

Course Code	Unit No	Name of the Unit	Credits
SBAPHI201		Ethics: Theory and Action	4
	1	Egoism: Psychological and Ethical	
	2	Existentialist and Feminist ethics	
	3	Ethics in Action: Euthanasia and animal rights	
	4	Ethical Relativism	

PREAMBLE:

The pursuit of philosophical inquiry arises from mankind's innate sense of wonderment regarding the universe and its position within it. This intrinsic curiosity compels individuals to seek knowledge and understanding, eschewing ignorance in favor of wisdom. Philosophical contemplation emerges whenever individuals engage in deep and consistent reflection upon their beliefs, concepts, principles, theories, morals, and modes of existence. Fundamental inquiries such as "What constitutes the virtuous life? What obligations do I owe to myself, others, and society? What forms of existence are deemed virtuous and meaningful?" represent common philosophical queries. However, reflective individuals also ponder upon broader topics such as the nature of the cosmos, the dichotomy of mind and body, the essence and scope of human rights, and the optimal societal structure.

We at Sophia College endeavors at the undergraduate Philosophy program level to cultivate critical thinking, ethical discernment, and profound engagement with existential, epistemic, and axiological inquiries. Designed to furnish students with a comprehensive grasp of philosophical traditions, theories, and methodologies, the program aims to nurture intellectual inquisitiveness and analytical acumen essential for success across diverse disciplines. Every course within this program is conceived with the utmost consideration for the educational enrichment of our students. The syllabi of all courses offered under this program embody a novel vision and embrace a "learning outcome-based curriculum framework," fostering enhanced teaching-learning experiences in a more student-centric milieu.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

PO 1	To introduce students to the traditional, modern and contemporary methods of philosophical inquiry in Greek, Indian and Western philosophy
PO 2	To familiarise students with the knowledge of some of the main figures, movements and periods in the history of philosophy
PO 3	To equip students with a command of some of the main issues in traditional and contemporary philosophy in Indian and Western context.

PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

PSO 1	Students will be able to analyse and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of ethical theories through the application of philosophical reasoning and logical arguments.
PSO 2	Students will possess the knowledge and skill to critically examine political decisions and social policies of a society from the perspective of justice, liberty and equality.
PSO 3	Students will be able to look at philosophical problems clearly and carefully in order to construct and defend their view on a wide variety of philosophical topics ranging from religion to morality to metaphysics and epistemology.

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NAME OF THE COURSE	Ethics: Theory and Action	
CLASS	FYBA	
COURSE CODE	SBAPHI101	
NUMBER OF CREDITS	4	
NUMBER OF LECTURES PER WEEK	4	
TOTAL NUMBER OF LECTURES PER SEMESTER	60	
EVALUATION METHOD	INTERNAL ASSESSMENT	SEMESTER END EXAMINATION
TOTAL MARKS	50	50
PASSING MARKS	20	20

COURSE OBJECTIVES

CO 1.	To familiarise students with various moral theories, moral principles and approaches to the study of ethics.
CO 2.	To develop in students the ability to critically analyse and evaluate philosophical arguments related to moral principles.
CO 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 LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

SYLLABUS

UNIT 1	Nature of Philosophy
1.1	Philosophy and science; philosophy and religion.
1.2	Philosophical and non-philosophical questions; open and closed questions.
1.3	Branches of philosophy: metaphysics (philosophy of science, philosophy of religion, philosophy of mind), epistemology (rationalism, empiricism, scepticism, logic and language) and ethics.
1.4	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
2.1	J.S. Mill's version of Utilitarianism; Rule and Act Utilitarianism;
2.2	Critical appraisal of consequentialism.
2.3	Deontological ethics: Immanuel Kant: the notion of Goodwill, hypothetical and categorical imperative
2.4	Two formulations of the categorical imperative: (i) Universal law (ii) Respect for persons; critical appraisal of deontological ethics
UNIT 3	Ethics in Action I: Punishment
3.1	The philosophical problem in punishment.
3.2	Deontological defense of punishment: retributivism and revenge; critical appraisal.
3.3	Utilitarian defense of punishment: deterrence and reformation; critical appraisal.

3.4	The debate on capital punishment: abolitionists versus retentionists.
UNIT 4	Does morality depend on religion?
4.1	Relationship between morality and religion.
4.2	Divine command ethics.
4.3	Natural Law ethics.
4.4	Critical appraisal.

REFERENCES:

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)

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SEMESTER 2

NAME OF THE COURSE	Ethics Theory and Action	
CLASS	FYBA	
COURSE CODE	SBAPHI201	
NUMBER OF CREDITS	4	
NUMBER OF LECTURES PER WEEK	4	
TOTAL NUMBER OF LECTURES PER SEMESTER	60	
EVALUATION METHOD	INTERNAL ASSESSMENT	SEMESTER END EXAMINATION
TOTAL MARKS	50	50
PASSING MARKS	20	20

COURSE OBJECTIVES

CO 1.	To familiarise students with various moral theories, moral principles and approaches to the study of ethics.
CO 2.	To develop in students the ability to critically analyse and evaluate philosophical arguments related to moral principles.
CO 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 LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

SYLLABUS

UNIT 1	Egoism: Psychological and Ethical
1.1	Thomas Hobbes version of psychological egoism

1.2	General arguments in favour and against psychological egoism
1.3	Ayn Rand's version of ethical egoism
1.4	Arguments in favour and against ethical egoism
UNIT 2	Existentialist and feminist ethics
2.1	Existentialist ethics: Jean Paul Sartre: existence precedes essence, anguish and abandonment
2.2	Sartre: Bad faith and authentic existence
2.3	Feminist Ethics: Carol Gilligan: critique of Lawrence Kohlberg's moral development theory
2.4	Ethics of care versus ethics of justice; Gilligan's account of ethics of care
UNIT 3	Ethics in Action II: Euthanasia and Animal Rights
3.1	Euthanasia: Types: active and passive, voluntary and non-voluntary.
3.2	Should euthanasia be legalized? Arguments in favour and against euthanasia.
3.3	Animal welfare and rights: Utilitarian view: Peter Singer.
3.4	Animal rights: Deontological view: Tom Reagan
UNIT 4	Ethical Relativism

REFERENCES:

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)
- Andrew 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)

ASSESSMENT PATTERN

Internal Assessment (50 marks)

There shall be three IA activities of 25 marks each
 Students shall attempt minimum of two IA activities
 Students shall be marked on two best IA activities
 IA activities can be a combination of MCQs, One line , short notes, case studies, projects, assignments, PowerPoint submissions
 Passing marks: 20 marks

Semester End Examination – External Assessment (50 marks)

- The duration of the paper will be two hours.
- There shall be four compulsory questions
- Q1-3 shall correspond to the three units. Q1-3 shall contain an internal choice
- Q1 – Q3 shall carry a maximum of 12 marks
- Q4 shall be a short note from Unit 1 to 3. Q4 shall carry a maximum of 14 marks
- Passing marks: 20 marks
