

Course Title	LAH 314 Ethical Theory		Instructor(s)	Mirja Annalena Holst
			E-mail	
Class Style	Lecture		Office Hours	
Track	Global Liberal Arts		Mode of Instruction	Solo
Credits	2		Allocated Year	3
Active Learning	Category 3 (2, 3, 4) Category 4 (1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10)		Compulsory or Elective	Elective
Course Overview	Ethics is a field of study which concerns itself with the question of how one should act in a given situation: What is right and wrong? What is morally good and evil? In a wider sense, ethics seeks to answer the question first posed by Socrates: How may we live the morally good life? This course provides a comprehensive introduction to ethics. Students will examine and reflect upon some of the most central questions in moral philosophy, such as the following: What are the major ethical theories, and how do they relate to the varied kinds of moral problems that confront us in our lives? What reason is there for one to live a moral life? Is there one universal moral theory or are morals specific to particular cultures or even individuals? Is the rightness or wrongness of an action tied to its consequences? Is pleasure the only moral good or is virtue also central in determining morality?			
Course Objectives	The aim of this course is for students (1) to attain a basic understanding of a range of moral theories, (2) to gain a critical outlook regarding their approach to moral issues, (3) to be able to employ ethical concepts, (4) to be able to analyse the moral implications of real life issues, and (5) to gain a greater appreciation for the cultivation of basic human values such as personal responsibility, tolerance, and integrity.			
Prerequisite				
Course Schedule	No	Contents	Homework	
	1	Introduction	course overview, syllabus	
	2	Basic Notions in Ethics	practice basic notions	
	3	Cultural Relativism: Argument from Cultural Differences	argument evaluation	
	4	Cultural Relativism: Is-Ought Fallacy	discussion	
	5	Consequentialism: Bentham's Utilitarianism	apply felicific calculus	
	6	Consequentialism: Mill's Utilitarianism	comparison and evaluation	
	7	Consequentialism: Discussion of Utilitarianism	discussion	
	8	Midterm Exam	study for midterm exam	
	9	Deontology: Kant on Absolute Moral Rules	apply categorical imperative 1	
	10	Deontology: Kant on Respect for Persons	apply categorical imperative 2	
	11	Deontology: Discussion of Kant's Ethics	discussion	
	12	Virtue Ethics: Aristotle on the Virtues	practice on the virtues	
	13	Virtue Ethics: Aristotle on Phronesis and Eudaimonia	comparison and evaluation	
	14	Virtue Ethics: Discussion of Aristotle's Ethics	discussion	
		15	Conclusion	course review, debate
		Final Exam	study for final exam	
Grading	Participation: 10%, Quizzes: 20%, Midterm Exam: 30%, Final Exam: 40%			
Textbooks	All course materials, including texts, lecture slides, handouts, exercises, and sample solutions, will be available on the course webpage.			
References	Rachels, J., & Rachels, S. (2019). <i>The elements of moral philosophy</i> . McGraw-Hill. Rachels, J., & Rachels, S. (2015). <i>The right thing to do</i> . McGraw-Hill.			
NOTES	This syllabus is subject to change. Any possible changes will be notified to students.			