

Academic Year	AY2022/23
Academic Units	2AUs
Tutorial Hours	26

COURSE AIMS

This course aims to equip students with the necessary philosophical foundations to understand theories of ethics and subsequently apply those theories to real-life scenarios and issues. It also aims to enable students to understand and critically assess the civic institutions that structure their local and global communities. To these ends, the course will examine the nature of ethics, its understanding across different cultures, and how it is manifested in concepts, social structures, and governance institutions.

Topics to be explored include human rights, democracy, freedom of speech and inequality. The rights and duties of citizenship shall be a unifying theme. Students will think through assumptions they hold on all of these matters. They will be provided with the tools to understand various and even contradictory perspectives on these important issues. There will be a substantial amount of time devoted toward understanding Singapore's own institutions and ideologies, which are of course products specific to the country's own unique historical and geo-political circumstances. We expect that students will have a better appreciation of the country's institutions after reading the module.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Identify the morally relevant features of situations, decisions, and policies;
2. Explain your moral responsibilities to actively participate in activities that strengthen your local and global communities;
3. Critically assess the civic structures and institutions of your communities and your role in them;
4. Make well-informed arguments on some major contemporary issues.
5. Apply ethics and civics concepts to the Singapore context.

COURSE CONTENT

1. Introduction – What is Ethics, Civics, Multiculturalism and how is this relevant to you?
2. Reasoning for ethics and civics + Logic Quiz
3. Human Rights Part 1: Human Trafficking
4. Human Rights Part 2: Disability
5. Reproduction Ethics: Abortion
6. Ethics of Death and Dying: Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide
7. Equality & Meritocracy
8. Multiculturalism
9. Political Systems: Types, Features, and Moral Justifications
10. Free Speech: Meanings, Limitations, and Implications

REFERENCES

1. Russ Shafer-Landau, "What is Morality?" pp. 1-6 from *Living Ethics* (US: Oxford University Press, 2019).
2. Al-Farabi, excerpts from "The Attainment of Happiness" pp. 113-119 from *Introduction to World Philosophy* (US: Oxford University Press, 2009).
3. Teo You Yenn, *This is What Inequality Looks Like*, pp. 41-90 (Singapore: Ethos Books, 2018).