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Academic Year/course:

## 16870 - Ethics

### Syllabus Information

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DEGREE:: CODE: 16870

YEAR COURSE IS TAUGHT:

YEAR: 2

SEMESTER:

TYPE: Compulsory

ECTS: 3.0

LANGUAGE:

SEMINARIOS: Group 100: Spanish

Group 102: Spanish

Group 111: English

Group 203: English

### 1. ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE

DEPARTAMENT:

Humanities

AREA OF KNOWLEDGE:

Philosophy

### 2. LECTURERS OF THE SUBJECT

Responsible of the Course	CONTACT
Name:	Miguel Acosta López
Phone (ext.):	14867
Email:	<a href="mailto:macosta@ceu.es">macosta@ceu.es</a>
Office:	1.4.5. (EPS)
Teaching and Research profile	Ph.D. in Philosophy – University of Navarra Associate Professor by ANECA
Research Lines	Philosophical Anthropology and Metaphysics Philosophy of Nature and Science Environmental and Technological Ethics

Responsible of the Course	CONTACT
Name:	José María Garrido Bermúdez
Phone (ext.):	15208
Email:	jgbermudez@ceu.es
Office:	Attic - Building C (Faculty of Pharmacy- Montepríncipe)
Teaching and Research profile:	Ph.D. in Philosophy – Complutense University of Madrid

## TUTORIALS

For any queries students can contact lecturers by e-mail, phone or visiting their office during the teacher's tutorial times published on the students' Virtual Campus.

### 3. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ethics deals with happiness and the meaning of life in relation to moral action. The course is intended to convey the philosophical foundations of Ethics, starting from the analysis of moral experience and, in a complementary way, through the critical study of the main ethical trends. It also lays the epistemological basis for the understanding of professional deontology.

### 4. COMPETENCIES

Code	Basic Competences
CB2	Students apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner, and have competences that can be demonstrated through devising and defending arguments or solving problems within their field of study.
CB5	Students develop those learning skills necessary to undertake further studies with a high degree of autonomy.

Code	Specific Competences
CE17	To know the ethical, social, economic and environmental implications derived from their professional activity.

Code	Transversal Competences
CT03	To know and differentiate the different ethical currents.
CT04	To make reflective judgments about social norms and values.
CT05	To perform ethical assessments about human behavior.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Code	Learning Outcomes
RA40	To describe and values the ethical, social, economic and environmental implications derived from biotechnology.
RA51	To know and differentiate the different ethical currents.

RA52	To discern the individual and social values that respect the personal dignity and the human rights.
RA53	To think, in practical cases of biotechnology, on social norms and values according to ethical principles.
RA54	To perform ethical assessments about human behavior.
RA62	To know how to apply their knowledge to its work or vocation in a professional manner and possess the skills that are usually demonstrated through the elaboration and defense of arguments and the resolution of problems within their area of study.
RA65	To develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further studies with a high degree of autonomy.

## 5. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENT'S ASSIGNMENTS

Total hours of the course	90
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Code	Name	On-campus hours
AF1	Lecture	2
AF2	Seminar	20
AF3	Workshops - Group Seminar - Academic Tutoring	7
AF6	Evaluation activities	2
AF9	Tutoring (individual)	1
TOTAL Presence Hours		32

Code	Name	Not on-campus hours
AF10	Self student work	58

### EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES DESCRIPTION

Activity	Definition
Lecture	Learning activity that is developed in the classroom, that uses the descriptive methodology and prioritizes the teaching action of the lecturer.
Seminar	Learning activity that is developed in the classroom-seminar, that under the guidance of the professor, encourages the cooperative learning among students and that is directed to the evaluation of cases and allows the study in detail.
Workshops - Group Seminar - Tutorials	Formative activity in the workshop room, preferably aimed at the acquisition of skills for knowledge transmission (MECES Skill 4). Addresses methodological aspects. Prepares students for written and oral communication and the transmission of knowledge.
Evaluation activities	Exam hours.

Tutoring	Face-to-face activity in which the teacher resolves doubts about the learning of the subjects.
Self student work	Activities to be developed and completed by the student on his/her own.

## 6. ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING

### CLASS ATTENDANCE

- In order to be evaluated according to the continuous assessment system, the student must attend at least 75% of scheduled classes (attendance sheets will be used). As students may be absent 25% of the classes, no attenuating circumstances will be accepted for absences. Lack of punctuality at the beginning of classes could be considered as "partial absence" or "absence", once the lecturer has done the control.
- In this sense, not only is the achievement of a mere numerical percentage pursued, but it is also required that the student maintain at all times an engaged attitude and appropriate for the development of the course.
- **Students who, for reasonably justified reasons, are unable to attend classes in the percentage indicated above, must inform the teaching unit at the beginning of the semester, and this unit will establish the corresponding Course Plan adapted to be able to pass the subject. The absence of communication or the delay in the same will make the student apply the same evaluation criteria provided for their peers.**

### ASSESSMENTS SYSTEM AND CRITERIA

ORDINARY EXAMINATION (continuous assessment) <sup>1</sup>		
Code	Name	Percentage
SE1/SE2	Essay or multiple-choice exam / Written exam with exercises, problems and assumptions, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Midterm Exam (Minimum grade 5 to release contents) 25%</li> <li>• Final Exam (Minimum grade 4 to consider continuous evaluation system) 50%</li> </ul>	75%
SE3	"On-site" evaluation of several learning activities: seminars, practices, workshops, applied work, through direct observation of the work or student performance.	5%
SE6/SE8	Work and reports that imply a reasoned interpretation, summary and opinion by the student. / Presentations and oral and/or written expositions, public defence.	20%

(1) A student who, due to justified exceptional circumstances (illness, overlapping timetables at the University, etc.), is unable to attend class must submit a prior written request to the teacher if he wishes to take the ordinary examination (whose weight is 50% of the continuous assessment) under the same conditions as the other students.

In addition, with the approval of the academic authorities and according to the teacher's criteria, he or she may present one or more additional papers to rectify the practical work and make up the partial exam (which represents 45% of the Continuous Assessment). Also, to evaluate the percentage of evaluation "in situ" (5% of the continuous Evaluation), the teacher will indicate a plan of tutorials and/or the attendance to the classes that are not affected by overlapping of schedules in the case of students of validation.

RE-TAKE EXAM / Continuous Evaluation <sup>1</sup>			
Code	Name	Minimum Grade	Percentage
SE1	Written exam with exercises, problems and assumptions, etc.	5	100%

(1) In order to grade the extraordinary exam there will no account of the previous percentages of the continuous assessment system neither the minimum attendance required. The final result will be just the grade of the retake exam.

## 7. COURSE PROGRAMME

## **THEORETICAL:**

### **1. Introduction: The nature and the sense of Ethics**

1. What is Ethics?
2. Ethics in relation to other sciences.
3. The sense of ethics. Personal and social development.
4. Ethical challenges in a complex and globalized world.

### **2. Person and moral action**

1. Anthropological foundation for ethics
2. Freedom: voluntary and involuntary acts.
3. Natural law, positive laws and culture.
4. The structure of moral action.

### **3. The moral conscience**

1. What is moral conscience? Types of moral conscience
2. Conscience as the norm of morality.
3. Prudence, deliberation and decision.
4. What is conscientious objection?

### **4. Ethics and happiness**

1. Virtues and values.
2. Love and responsibility.
3. Well-being and happiness.
4. Human life meaning and transcendence

### **5. The main ethical systems**

1. Ethics of self-realization (Eudemonism). Case Study N°1.
2. Ethics of duty (Deontology). Practical Case N°2.
3. Ethics of pleasure (Hedonism). Practical Case N°3.
4. Ethics of practical utility (Utilitarianism-Pragmatism). Practical Case N°4.
5. Ethics of minimums and consequentialism. Practical Case N°5.

### **6. Ethics and Deontology**

1. Theoretical and applied ethics.
2. Professional Ethics and Deontology
3. Ethical principles with global impact (Responsibility and Solidarity)  
Case Study N°6 (Optional)

## **8. RECOMMENDED READING**

### **BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Acosta, Miguel, *Man and Person*, Madrid, CEU Ediciones, 2009.
- Lewis, Clive S., *The Abolition of Man*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1943.
- Sandel, Michael, *Justice: What's the right thing to do?*, London, Penguin Books, 2009.
- Spaemann, Robert, *Basic Moral Concepts*, London, Routledge, 1989.

### **ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Aristotle, *The Complete Works of Aristotle*, Vols. 1&2, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1995.
- Augustine (St), *Confessions*, Oxford University Press, Oxford-New York, 1991, Trans: H. Chadwick.
- Carson, Thomas L., *Value and the good life*, University of Notre Dame Press, Notre Dame, 2000.
- Lewis, Clive S., *The Screwtape letters, Mere Christianity, The four loves, The problem of pain.*

- MacIntyre, Alasdair, *Dependent Rational Animals: Why Human Beings Need the Virtues*, South Bend, University of Notre Dame Press, 1999.
- Nussbaum, M.C., *The Fragility of Goodness. Luck and ethics in Greek tragedy and philosophy*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1989.
- Pieper, Josef, *Happiness and Contemplation*, Chicago, Pantheon Books, 1966.
- Plato, *The Collected Dialogues*, Princeton University Press, New Jersey, 1980, E. Hamilton and H. Cairns (Eds).
- Reimers, Adrian J., *Truth About the Good*, Florida, Sapientia Press, 2011.
- Sandel, Michael, *The case against perfection: ethics in the age of genetic engineering*, Cambridge (Massachusetts), Harvard University Press, 2007.
- Spaemann, R., *Happiness and Benevolence*, University of Notre Dame Press, 2000.
- Stuart Mill, John, *Utilitarianism and 1868 Speech on Capital Punishment*, Indianapolis, Hackett Publishing Co., 2001.
- **Stuart Mill, John, *On Liberty*, Indianapolis, Hackett Publishing Co., 1978.**

## WEB RESOURCES

- Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://plato.stanford.edu/>
- The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://www.iep.utm.edu/>
- Thomistic Philosophy: <http://aquinasonline.com>
- Corpus Thomisticum: <http://www.corpusthomisticum.org/>
- Open Access Journal: [www.doaj.org](http://www.doaj.org)
- Philosophy around the Web: [http://users.ox.ac.uk/~worc0337/phil\\_index.html](http://users.ox.ac.uk/~worc0337/phil_index.html)
- **Philosophical Journals – Electronic: [http://users.ox.ac.uk/~worc0337/phil\\_journals\\_electronic.html](http://users.ox.ac.uk/~worc0337/phil_journals_electronic.html)**

## 9. ATTITUDE IN THE CLASSROOM

The student will show in the classroom a suitable attitude according to the rules of the Faculty and the University.

Irregular behavior against the academic integrity (as no reference to cited sources, the plagiarism of works or the use of prohibited information during examinations) or signing the attendance sheet in the place of an absent classmate could imply the student's exclusion of the continuous assessment system and the eventual penalization, according to the university norms.

## 10. EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES

Should an exceptional situation occur which prevents continuing with face-to-face teaching under the conditions previously established to this end, the University will take appropriate decisions and adopt the necessary measures to guarantee the acquisition of skills and attainment of learning outcomes as established in this Course Unit Guide. This will be done in accordance with the teaching coordination mechanisms included in the Internal Quality Assurance System of each degree.