

## Course Outline (General Education)

Course Code/Section: UGEC2841	Year: 2023- 24 Term 1
Course Title: Applied Ethics (應用倫理學)	
Time/Venue: Tue 3:30-6:15 (LSK 515)	Course website: See our website at Blackboard
Course Teacher: Dr. Franz Fan-lun MANG 孟繁麟	Email: <a href="mailto:fmang@cuhk.edu.hk">fmang@cuhk.edu.hk</a>
Office Location: Room 424, Fung King Hey Building	
Teaching Assistant/Tutor: Email:	
Office Location: 4/F, Fung King Hey Building	

### Course overview: *(as per the course description approved by Senate Committee on GE<sup>1</sup>)*

A survey of major moral debates that shows how philosophical thought can be brought to bear upon contemporary issues. Students will be encouraged to develop their own judgments in a critical manner.

Students will discuss animal use, prostitution, assisted suicide, freedom of thought and expression, and social justice. Should these things be prohibited, regulated, or recognized by law? In the course of discussion, students (you) will be introduced to several major moral theories, including consequentialism, deontology, and virtue ethics.

In short: this course will help you develop your ability to think carefully (and responsibly) about some of the most difficult and controversial issues of personal and public morality.

### Learning outcomes: *(based on the learning outcomes approved by Senate Committee on GE)*

1. Understand the nature of applied ethics.
2. Recognize the characteristics and importance of some main problems of applied ethics.
3. Reflect on how to resolve these problems of applied ethics.
4. Understand each problem of applied ethics in its own right, and whether a particular problem must be resolved.
5. Identify the characteristics and value of ethical theories.
6. Explain and assess different moral stances in a perspicuous, non-doctrinaire way.
7. At least: learn to read slowly and think carefully.

### Learning Activities: *(as per the learning activities approved by Senate Committee on GE)*

1. Lecture
2. In-class discussion
3. Term-end test
4. Term-end essay

<b>[Tentative] Course Schedule:</b>		
	Topic	Required readings/other requirements
1.	Introduction, and What is ethics? What is applied ethics?	(See the list of readings)
2.	The Moral Problem of Animal Use (1)	(Ditto)
3.	The Moral Problem of Animal Use (2)	(Ditto)
5.	Commodifying Sex (1)	(Ditto)
6.	Commodifying Sex (2)	(Ditto)
7.	Freedom of Thought and Expression	(Ditto)
8.	Assisted Suicide (1)	(See the list of readings)
9.	Assisted Suicide (2)	(Ditto)
10.	Social justice and poverty (1)	(Ditto)
11.	Social justice and poverty (2), and Conclusion	(Ditto)
---	Term-end test (held in the same classroom)	
---	Term-end essay due at 12:00noon	

<u>Required readings and other recommended readings/ learning resources:</u>
<p>General:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. LaFollette, Hugh (2001) <i>Ethics in Practice: Anthology</i>, 2nd Edition, Blackwell Publishing.</li> <li>2. Mappes, Thomas A. and Jane S. Zembaty (2002) <i>Social Ethics</i>, 6th Edition, Iowa: McGraw-Hill</li> <li>3. Olen, Jeffrey and Vincent Barry (2004) <i>Applying Ethics</i>, 8th Edition, Belmont: Wadsworth Publishing.</li> </ol> <p><b>*Topic-based:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>If you don't know much about ethics as a philosophical subject, please read:</b> <p>Pojman, Louis P. and James Fieser (2012) <i>Ethics: Discovering Right and Wrong</i>. Wadsworth. Chaps. 1 and 2, pp. 1-29.</p> <p>Enoch, David (2014) 'Why I am an Objectivist about Ethics (And Why You Are, Too)', in Russ Shafer Landau (ed.) <i>The Ethical Life</i>, 3rd ed. Oxford University Press.</p> </li> <li>2. <b>The moral problem of animal use:</b> <p>Singer, Peter (2006) 'All Animals Are Equal', in James E. White (ed.) <i>Contemporary Moral Problems</i>. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth, pp. 379-87.</p> </li> </ol>

Regan, Tom (2006) 'The Case for Animal Rights', in James E. White (ed.) *Contemporary Moral Problems*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth, pp. 387-96 or in Peter Singer (ed.), *In Defense of Animals*, New York: Basil Blackwell, 1985, pp. 13-26.

Nobis, Nathan (2002) 'Vegetarianism and Virtue: Does Consequentialism Demand Too Little?' *Social Theory and Practice* 28(1): 135-56.

### **3. Commodifying sex: prostitution and legalization:**

Nussbaum, Martha (2006) "'Whether from reason or prejudice": Taking Money for Bodily Services'. *The Journal of Legal Studies*, Vol. 27, No. S2 (June 1998), pp. 693-723. Read Section V in pp. 710-24.

Anderson, Elizabeth (1993) *Value in Ethics and Economics*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, pp. 150-58.

Satz, Debra (2010) *Why Some Things Should Not Be for Sale: The Moral Limits of Markets*. Oxford University Press, Chapter 6.

### **4. Freedom of thought and expression:**

Mill, John Stuart (1832). *On Liberty*, Chapter 2. Available at Online Library of Liberty [here](#). Alternative version: Mill, J.S. (2003[1832]). *On Liberty*. Edited by David Bromwich and George Kateb. Yale University Press, Chapter 2 (pp. 86-120).

Waldron, Jeremy (1993). *Liberal Rights*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chap. 5 'Mill and the value of moral distress'.

Conly, Sarah (2013). *Against Autonomy*. Cambridge University Press. Chap. 2, 'Individuality'.

### **5. Assisted suicide: morality and law:**

Young, Robert (2017) "An Argument in Favor of the Morality of Voluntary Medically Assisted Death" in M. Cholbi (ed.), *Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide: Global Views on Choosing to End Life*, Santa Barbara: Praeger.

Dworkin, Ronald (1993) *Life's Dominion: An Argument about Abortion, Euthanasia and Individual Freedom*. New York: Knopf, pp. 179-217.

### **6. Social justice and poverty:**

Marx, Karl (1844) *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*, "Estranged Labour" (in First Manuscript) [[Online](#)] and "The Power of Money" (in Third manuscript) [[Online](#)].

Singer, Peter (1972) "Famine, Affluence, and Morality," *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 1: 3, pp. 229-243.

Miller, David (2007) *National Responsibility and Global Justice*. Oxford University Press. Chap. 9 "Responsibilities to the World's Poor" (pp. 240-261).

葉家威、曾瑞明 (2019) 《全球正義與普世價值》，香港: 中文大學出版社。

<u>Assessment scheme:</u>		
Assessment component	Description	Weight (%)
1. In-class discussion	See below*.	25%
2. Term-end essay	2000-2500 words in English. 4000-5000 words in Chinese. Details will be given in due course.	30%
3. Term-end test	To be held in the classroom. Instructions will be given in due course.	45%

**\*In-class discussion (25%)**

**a) In-class written response (only 4 sentences each time) for discussion: 20%**

▪ **Lectures 3 through 11 (9 times):**

- This is a good way of honing your writing skills. It also helps you share your ideas with the lecturer and your classmates.
- Each student **in class** will be asked to write a very short response—within the space of 4 sentences, in Chinese or English—to a question.

- **Grading:** Your response slips will be read by the lecturer carefully but will not be returned. Each of your response will receive either B or A.

- **Note:** Do not help any other student to write her or his response.

**b) Interaction with fellow classmates and the lecturer: 5%**

- c) About arriving late (關於遲到):** Please don't be late for class. If you arrive late for 15 minutes or more, then join us next time. Classroom isn't café with people coming in at any time. :-). But if you have to be late or absent for a justifiable reason, please email me ([flmang@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:flmang@cuhk.edu.hk)) **in advance**.

Grade Descriptors:

[http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade\\_descriptors.pdf](http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf) in your course outline

Academic honesty and plagiarism:

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/> .

With each assignment, students are required to submit a [signed declaration](#) (attachment 1) that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via **VeriGuide**, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

Feedback for evaluation

- a. Course and teaching evaluation survey will be conducted in the second last week of the course. Students are reminded of their responsibility and right to give feedback to facilitate enhancement of the course.
- b. Students are welcome to give feedbacks to the course teacher at any time in person or through emails.

Attachment 1

<u>Declaration for written assignment</u>	
I am/we are submitting the assignment for:	
<input type="checkbox"/> an individual project or <input type="checkbox"/> a group project on behalf of all members of the group. It is hereby confirmed that the submission is authorized by all members of the group, and all members of the group are required to sign this declaration.	
<p>I/We declare that the assignment here submitted is original except for source material explicitly acknowledged, the piece of work, or a part of the piece of work has not been submitted for more than one purpose (i.e. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration, and that the submitted soft copy with details listed in the &lt;Submission Details&gt; is identical to the hard copy(ies), if any, which has(have) been / is(are) going to be submitted. I/We also acknowledge that I am/we are aware of University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and of the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations, as contained in the University website <a href="http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/">http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/</a>. In the case of a group project, we are aware that each student is responsible and liable to disciplinary actions should there be any plagiarized contents in the group project, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed directly or indirectly to the plagiarized contents.</p> <p>It is also understood that assignments without a properly signed declaration by the student concerned and in the case of a group project, by all members of the group concerned, will not be graded by the teacher(s).</p>	
<hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black;"/> Signature(s)	<hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black;"/> Date
<hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black;"/> Name(s)	<hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black;"/> Student ID(s)
<hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black;"/> Course code	<hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black;"/> Course title