

Title:	Introduction to Ethics
Lecture hours:	30
Study period: (summer/winter)	Summer/winter
Number of credits:	5
Assessment methods:	Attendance, active participation, final exam
Language of instruction:	English
Prerequisites:	English B1/B2
Course content:	This course aims to give students an understanding of major issues in moral philosophy. We will ask ethical questions that have gripped people through the ages, and explore how they have been answered throughout the history of philosophy. We will begin by examining certain problems that arise when we try to make moral judgments, such as cultural relativism (“What’s right for us is not necessarily right for them”), subjectivism (“What’s right for me is not necessarily right for you”), and the role of religion in morality (e.g., “What’s right is just what God says is right”). Second, we will consider several historically important and still-prominent theoretical approaches to ethics (such as utilitarianism, consequential ethics, situational ethics) that purport to provide systematic procedures for answering questions about right and wrong. In the third part of the course we will deal with some issues of applied ethics such as famine relief, euthanasia, abortion, and genetic engineering. Throughout, we will seek not so much to form final judgments about specific moral issues, but rather to improve our thinking about the considerations that may count as reasons for and against the moral judgments we make.
Learning outcomes:	After completing the course the student is supposed to discern and discuss the moral issues and dilemmas concerning individual (private) and collective (social) lives. Furthermore, the student is supposed to develop skills in rigorous logical thinking, deconstructing and reconstructing arguments, formulating original criticism, and engaging in the dialectical process that moves any inquiry—especially philosophical inquiry—forward.
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Literature:	R. Burnor, Y. Ray, Ethical Choices. An Introduction to Moral Philosophy with Cases, New York 2011. R. L. Arrington, Western Ethics. An Historical Introduction, Georgia State University, 1998. J. Thiroux, Ethics, theory and practice, Upper Saddle River, 1998. O. Ezra, Moral dilemmas in real life, Berlin 2006. R. G. Frey and Christopher Heath Wellman (ed.), A companion to applied ethics, Malden et.al. 2005.