

Economics and Ethics (F000648)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 6.0

Study time 180 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2024-2025

A (semester 1)	Dutch, English	Gent		
			lecture	
			seminar	0.0h
			peer teaching	0.0h
			group work	0.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Albrecht, Johan	EB21	lecturer-in-charge
Peferoen, Ludo	EB25	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Economics	6	A
Master of Science in Economics	6	A
Master of Science in Economics (Double Degree)	6	A
Exchange programme in Economics and Business Administration	6	A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

Ethics, integrity, economic systems, free market, justice, democracy, rule of law, social responsibility.

Position of the course

Economic activities make out a large part of life in society and, depending on the type of society, these activities are organized in different ways. This course considers broad ethical questions pertaining to the way the economic element is organized in our society. These questions are situated on different levels. There are ethical questions facing the individual in his/her role of participant in profitmaking organisations; ethical questions concerning the responsibilities of companies and other economic actors; and finally ethical questions about the way society, through its government, chooses to regulate economic activity and to compensate for its occasional negative impact. To provide good answers to any of those questions it is necessary to first acquire a solid sense of what it is that ethics requires of us. The discussion of these questions will involve different forms of active student participation.

Contents

General topics will include:

- 1 The multiplicity of ethics and the idea of moral progress
- 2 Rationality versus feeling in ethics
- 3 Economic systems and their justification
- 4 Instruments for ethics management
- 5 Individual property and the question of justice
- 6 The place of democracy and the rule of law in a free market

Depending on student interests a number of more particular topics will be studied: the social responsibility of business, ethical investment, self-regulation in publicity, the morality of trade in organs and bodily services, doing business under authoritarian regimes, the balance between work and private life, an employee's

right to privacy, forms of co-operation within and between companies, forms of social economy, the idea of fair trade, the role of labor unions, justice in remuneration, public or private medicine, education, media. Which of these will be studied will depend on students' choices, but students can propose topics as well.

Initial competences

None

Final competences

- 1 To analyse the ethical character of situations
- 2 To design and evaluate arguments
- 3 To produce a text in a structured manner
- 4 To try to understand someone else's reasoning
- 5 To be courteous in a discussion
- 6 To look up a variety of sources and to be critical of their value
- 7 To work on an assignment in a small group
- 8 To talk and write in English

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Lecture, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

A number of themes are investigated by the students themselves and shared with the other students through a participatory activity of their own choice.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Course content-related study coaching

The students discuss their proposal and initial elaboration of their theme with the teacher

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

One needs to have actively attended the participatory activities in order to receive a grade on the NPE-part of the evaluation

Calculation of the examination mark

The final score is determined:

50% by periodic evaluation

50% by non-periodical evaluation

The periodic and non-periodical evaluation are added together. The total grade determines the pass.

