

Normative Ethics (A000943)

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

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Segers, Seppe

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

[Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences](#)

crdts

offering

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Normative ethics

Position of the course

This basic course wants to help students gain basic knowledge of the most important schools in normative ethics.

Contents

A thorough analysis is given of the major theories including utilitarianism and consequentialism, virtue ethics, feminist ethics and Kantianism. These theories are studied on the basis of the writings of philosophers who represent the different schools.

Initial competences

To have some knowledge about ethics.

Final competences

- 1 To have knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of the different normative theories.
- 2 To be able to apply the perspectives on concrete ethical problems.
- 3 To be able to read mainstream articles on ethics in scholarly journals.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Due to COVID19 different didactic methods may be applied if necessary.

- Lectures
- Seminars: interactive discussion of articles.

Learning materials and price

Besides the syllabus, copies of a limited number of articles are used for discussion

and analysis. Cost: 10 EUR

References

- Shaw, W.H. (1999) Contemporary ethics: taking account of utilitarianism, pp. 1-170.
- Baron, M. (1997) Kantian ethics, In Baron, M.W., Pettit, P. & Slote, M. Three methods of ethics: a debate, pp. 3-91. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.
- Brennan, S. (1999) Recent work in feminist ethics. *Ethics* 109: 858-893.
- Copp, D. & Sobel, D. (2004) Morality and virtue: an assessment of some recent work in virtue ethics. *Ethics* 114: 514-554.
- Heubel, F. & Biller-Adorno, N. (2005) The contribution of Kantian moral theory to contemporary medical ethics: a critical analysis. *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy* 8: 5-18.
- Gunderson, M. (2004) A Kantian view of suicide and end-of-life treatment. *Journal of Social Philosophy* 35 (2): 277-287.
- Horton, J. (1996) Toleration as a virtue, In Heyd, D. (ed.) *Toleration: an elusive virtue*, 28-43, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Hursthouse, R. (1991) Virtue theory and abortion. *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 20: 223-246.
- Jaggar, A.M. (1991) Feminist ethics: projects, problems, prospects, In Card, C. (ed.) *Feminist ethics*, 78-104, Lawrence: University of Kansas Press.
- Pellegrino, E.D. & Thomasma, D.C. (1993) The virtues in medical practice, pp. 31-61, 84-91 (ch. 3, 4 & 7).
- Urban Walker, M. (2007) *Moral understandings*. ch. 1. Oxford University Press.
- Urban Walker, M. (2002) *Moral contexts*. Ch. 6 & 12. Rowman & Littlefield.

Course content-related study coaching

The lecturer is available for additional support in case of problems and questions.

Assessment moments

end-of-term 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

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Assessment Moments

Periodical: exam (100%)

Assessment Forms

Written exam with 3 open questions. Students are supposed to know the content of the course book.

Calculation of the examination mark

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
- 2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
- 3 Feedback can be given by telephone or during an appointment during or after office hours

For more information contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy: <https://www.ugent.be/lw/nl/student/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm>

