Lingnan University  
Department of Philosophy – MA in Practical Philosophy Programme

Course Title : Applied Ethics  
Course Code : PH1524  
Recommended Study Year : -  
No. of Credits/Term : 3  
Mode of Tuition : Lecture and Tutorial  
Class Contact Hours : 2 hours lecture per week  
1 hour tutorial per week  
Category in Major Programme : Value Philosophy  
Prerequisite(s) : -  
Co-requisite(s) : -  
Exclusion(s) : -  
Exemption Requirement(s) : -  

Brief Course Description  
Students will learn from this course not morality, but moral thinking; not judgments to repeat, but how to judge. The course will consider a number of specific moral issues in applied ethics. These include abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty; issues of diversity and equality in regard to race, gender, and economic status; and the extent of our moral obligations to the poor and starving of other countries, to animals, and to the environment.

Aims  
The aim is to introduce students to the main arguments for the opposing views on the hotly contested topics in applied ethics. It is expected that the student will learn to analyse and evaluate the relevant arguments, and that this will also help them to take sides about these controversial issues in a more reasonable and informed manner.

Learning Outcomes  
On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:
1. describe the nature, methods, and theories of ethics  
2. identify, summarize and criticize key social ethical issues that give rise to diametrically opposed but strongly held and passionate views.  
3. explain and evaluate various theories of ethics  
4. construct their moral arguments clearly  
5. develop more tolerance for the opinions that they disagree with, and that they will be more likely to engage in the rational debate about these divisive topics.

Indicative Content  
1. Ethics and Applied Ethics  
2. Marriage and Sexuality  
3. Pornography and Censorship  
4. Women’s Live  
5. Abortion  
6. Euthanasia and Suicide  
7. Just War  
8. Helping Others  
9. Animal Rights  
10. Ethical Theories 1  
11. Ethical Theories 2  
12. Threats to Moral Discussions  
13. Why Act Morally

Teaching Method  
Lecture and Tutorial
Measurement of Learning Outcomes
1. Students will give oral presentations on assigned readings. They are expected to summarize, paraphrase and respond critically to the arguments in these texts.
2. Students will write several philosophical essays, the topics of which correspond to the contents of the lectures. They are expected to argue rationally and present their arguments clearly.
3. The Term-end paper will assess students’ ability of applying ethical theories in social ethical issues.

Assessment
100% Continuous Assessment

Required Readings

Supplementary Readings