Course Title: Topics in Value Theory
Course Code: PHI 530
Recommended Study Year: -
No. of Credits/Term: 3
Mode of Tuition: Lecture and Tutorial
Class Contact Hours: 2 hours lecture/week; 1 hour tutorial/week
Category in Major Programme: Value Philosophy
Prerequisite(s): N/A
Co-requisite(s): N/A
Exclusion(s): N/A
Exemption Requirement(s): N/A

Brief Course Description
Value theory, or axiology, is concerned with the nature and status of value as well as with the differences and relations between distinctive types of value, such as intrinsic and instrumental value, and ethical, aesthetic, and economic values. This course surveys philosophical investigations into these and related topics.

Aims
To acquaint students with an important area of philosophy, as well as to give them deeper insight into the roles of values in their lives.

Learning Outcomes
This course is designed to enhance basic intellectual skills as well as to promote an enhanced understanding of a number of philosophical issues concerning the nature and status of values of various sorts. Completion of the course should grant students:

- Basic knowledge of the issues and arguments in philosophy of value or axiology
  This knowledge enables students to:
  1. Understand and respond critically to the issues and positions involved in philosophical reflection on values
  2. Have a greater awareness of distinctions between major categories of value, as well as of relations between values in these categories
  3. Understand the issues and positions involved in more reflection on the status of value more generally

- Ability to engage in further, independent learning and reflection
  This ability enables students to:
  1. Appreciate the complexity and prevalence of evaluative discourse
  2. Think more deeply and coherently about their own evaluative engagements and decisions
  3. Appreciate and engage with arguments on related issues

Indicative Content
1. Rival conceptions of distinctions between intrinsic, extrinsic, instrumental, final, inherent, and contributive value.
2. Prominent philosophical proposals concerning what is good for its own sake. Hedonism, experientialism, Platonism, etc.
3. Naturalist and non-naturalist accounts of value.
4. Response-dependence and the status of value; values, dispositions, and observers.
5. Realism, anti-realism, quasi-realism in the theory of value.
6. Value pluralism and value conflict.
7. Practical reason and value

**Teaching Method**
Lectures and discussions.

**Measurement of Learning Outcomes**
Student’s successful engagement with the lectures and readings, and corresponding progress towards the learning outcomes outlined above, will be measured by means of mid-term and term paper comprising both short-answer and more substantive, reflective essay questions. These papers will determine whether students have engaged successfully with the required readings for the course and with content presented in the lectures and tutorials. Students’ knowledge of key positions, distinctions, arguments, and relevant facts will be tested. The examination questions will assess the ability to draw the course materials together, the ability to articulate and organize ideas in written form, as well as the ability to synthesize ideas and form an individual opinion on important questions that have been the subject of extensive debate in the literature.

**Assessment**
Assessment of the students will focus on their active engagement with the philosophical readings and issues, and their ability to develop articulate critical responses.
Continuous assessment: 100%

**Required Readings**
A selection of classic and contemporary readings on the subject
Lewis, C. I. *An Analysis of Knowledge and Valuation*. LaSalle, Ill.: Open Court, 1946.

**Supplementary Readings**
Secondary References:
Korsgaard, Christine M. *Creating the Kingdom of Ends*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.