



HANYANG UNIVERSITY

2018 HISS Syllabus (Global Ethics)

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| Dept.: | Division of International Students |

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| Description: | <p>Recent economic and technological developments, in conjunction with human population growth, have given rise to the world's first global civilization, with problems and challenges that are truly global in scope, such as global warming, global poverty, overpopulation, economic globalization, and international terrorism. It is often thought that the solutions to these problems must come from government policies, international agreements, and/or private-sector initiatives. However, what is overlooked from this perspective are the ways in which individuals, especially citizens of developed countries, are implicated in these problems. And yet it is becoming increasingly clear that the lifestyle choices and consumption patterns of the citizens of developed countries have direct implications for the great global challenges of the 21st century.</p> <p>These connections give rise to a host of interesting and important ethical questions. For instance, if we could reduce the likelihood of catastrophic climate change by making simple changes to what we eat, should we do it? And if we could solve the problems of global poverty and famine by reducing the amount we as individuals spend on unnecessary luxury goods, should we do it? These are some of the questions that we examine in Global Ethics. The course provides an introduction to ethical thinking and ethical theory, an overview of some of the main challenges facing humanity in the 21st century, an understanding of how we as individuals are implicated in these problems, and a theoretical perspective from which to answer the question of how we should respond to them. The course consists of lectures and lively debates on a wide range of issues related to the fundamental question of how we should live our lives in this era of globalization.</p> |
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| Objectives: | <p>This course has several aims. First and foremost, the course aims to promote a greater understanding of some of the main problems confronting humanity in the 21st century as well as the ways in which we as individuals are implicated in these problems. The specific problems addressed include global warming, global poverty and famine, overpopulation and resource depletion, and war and international terrorism. Second, this course provides an introduction to ethical thinking and ethical theory. Students will acquire a better understanding of what an ethical issue is and learn several different perspectives from which ethical issues can be examined. In particular, students will be introduced to the ethical theories of libertarianism, utilitarianism, Kantian deontology, and Rawlsian egalitarianism. Third, this course will examine the aforementioned global problems from these various theoretical perspectives in an attempt to determine the best way to think through them and to answer the question of how we as individuals</p> |
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should respond to these problems. Fourth, as all presentations, assignments, and classroom discussions will be conducted in English, this course also provides an English-language academic environment in which students can improve their command of the English language.

The main books used in this course are the following:

- Readings:
1. Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?
Michael Sandel
Farrar, Straus and Giroux; 2010
 2. Practical Ethics
Peter Singer
Cambridge University Press; 2nd edition, 1999

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| Schedule: | Week 1 | Ethical theories 1: libertarianism, utilitarianism, deontology |
| | Week 2 | Ethical theories 2: Rawlsian egalitarianism, virtue ethics |
| | Week 3 | Military conscription, gender equality, animal rights, animal welfare |
| | Week 4 | Climate change, world poverty, population ethics, ethical lifestyles |

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| Evaluation: | Midterm (%) | Final (%) | Attendance (%) | Quizzes (%) | Participation (%) | Etc. (%) |
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