

Ethical Theory and Moral Practice

Single subject and programme course

7.5 credits

Etisk teori och moralisk praktik

721A01

Valid from: 2021 Autumn semester

Determined by
The Quality Board at the Faculty of Arts
and Sciences

Date determined
2009-11-20

Revision date
2021-06-18

Main field of study

Applied Ethics

Course level

Second cycle

Advancement level

A1N

Course offered for

- Master's Programme in Applied Ethics

Entry requirements

- Bachelor's degree equivalent to a Swedish Kandidatexamen
- English corresponding to the level of English in Swedish upper secondary education (English 6)
Exemption from Swedish

Intended learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students should on an advanced level be able to:

- account for and analyse theories and problems within the field of ethics and applied ethics
- develop a theoretically informed argumentation in specific problem areas of applied ethics
- formulate theory-based policy recommendations and assessment regarding moral issues in one specific professional setting
- express an open and critical attitude to positions and arguments

Course content

Until recently, the term 'applied ethics' was taken quite literally: the application of ethical theory to issues in practical life. Nowadays, many ethicists acknowledge that the relationship between ethical theory and moral practice might be more interactive. Moral choices may be guided or criticised from the perspective of some ethical theory. But theories may also be criticised and adjusted from the point of view of well-considered moral judgements concerning concrete problems. In this course, various normative ethical theories, like natural law theory, utilitarianism, kantianism and virtue ethics, will be investigated. Focus will be on the application of these theories to practical problems. It will then be investigated how to criticise and evaluate the theories in the light of their implications for practice.

Teaching and working methods

The approaches to teaching in this course include lectures, the reading and analysis of texts, participation in group discussions, seminars with active student involvement, and the writing of a short essay. In addition, students undertake self-studies.

Language of instruction and examination: English

Examination

The course is examined by:

- oral presentations in groups, grades: UG
- active participation in seminars, grades: UG
- individual written examination, grades: ECTS

For a final grade of Pass (E), grades of at least Pass (E) are required for all elements. A higher grade will be based on the individual written examination.

Detailed information can be found in the course's study guide.

If the LiU coordinator for students with disabilities has granted a student the right to an adapted examination for a written examination in an examination hall, the student has the right to it. If the coordinator has instead recommended for the student an adapted examination or alternative form of examination, the examiner may grant this if the examiner assesses that it is possible, based on consideration of the course objectives.

Students failing an exam covering either the entire course or part of the course twice are entitled to have a new examiner appointed for the reexamination.

Students who have passed an examination may not retake it in order to improve their grades.

Grades

ECTS, EC

Other information

Planning and implementation of a course must take its starting point in the wording of the syllabus. The course evaluation included in each course must therefore take up the question how well the course agrees with the syllabus.

The course is carried out in such a way that both men's and women's experience and knowledge is made visible and developed.

Department

Institutionen för kultur och samhälle