

# Course description

<b>Course abbreviation:</b>	KFR/MHIE	<b>Page:</b>	1 / 6
<b>Course name:</b>	History of Ethics		
<b>Academic Year:</b>	2024/2025	<b>Printed:</b>	29.05.2024 19:47

<b>Department/Unit /</b>	KFR / MHIE			<b>Academic Year</b>	2024/2025
<b>Title</b>	History of Ethics			<b>Type of completion</b>	Examination
<b>Accredited/Credits</b>	Yes, 7 Cred.			<b>Type of completion</b>	Combined
<b>Number of hours</b>	Lecture 2 [HRS/WEEK] Seminar 2 [HRS/WEEK]			<b>Course credit prior to</b>	YES
<b>Occ/max</b>	Status A	Status B	Status C	<b>Counted into average</b>	YES
<b>Summer semester</b>	0 / -	0 / -	0 / -	<b>Min. (B+C) students</b>	not determined
<b>Winter semester</b>	0 / 20	0 / 0	0 / 20	<b>Repeated registration</b>	NO
<b>Timetable</b>	Yes			<b>Semester taught</b>	Winter semester
<b>Language of instruction</b>	English			<b>Internship duration</b>	0
<b>Optional course</b>	Yes			<b>Ev. sc. – cred.</b>	S/N
<b>Evaluation scale</b>	A B C D E F				
<b>No. of hours of on-premise</b>	0				
<b>Auto acc. of credit</b>	No				
<b>Periodicity</b>	K				
<b>Substituted course</b>	None				
<b>Preclusive courses</b>	N/A				
<b>Prerequisite courses</b>	N/A				
<b>Informally recommended courses</b>	N/A				
<b>Courses depending on this Course</b>	N/A				

## Course objectives:

The aim of the course is to introduce the most important authors and topics in the history of ethics in connection to the contemporary debates in ethics.

### Reading List

Ancient Ethics, Candiottto

### 2. Dialogical inquiry and the Greek paideia

Plato, The Seventh Letter, 340b3-342a

### 3. Plato's Socrates: Elenchus and self-examination

Plato, Charmides, 155e2-157c6

### 4. The definition of virtue and Socrates' intellectualism

Meno 70a-100b (selections)

### 5. Plato's conception of the soul: harmony and justice

Plato, Republic, book 4: 435b-445b (selections)

### 6. The ethical value of eros and beauty

Plato, Symposium 205d-206e; 210a-212b

### 7. The idea of the Good and the power of dialectic

Plato, Republic, book 6: 508a-509c; book7: 514a-519d; 532a-534d

### 8. Aristotle's perfectionism and eudaimonism

Kraut, R. 2007. What is Good and Why: The Ethics of Well-Being. Harvard University Press, pp. 131-141.

## 9. Aristotle's conception of virtue and choice

Korsgaard, C. M. 2008. *The Constitution of Agency: Essays on Practical Reason and Moral Psychology* (OUP), selections from the chapter "Aristotle's Function Argument".

## 10. Aristotle on the good human life

Nussbaum, M. 2011. *Creating Capabilities: The Human Development Approach*. Harvard University Press, pp. 123-143.

## 11. Hellenist Ethics: the ideal of the wise man, and philosophy as a style of life

P. Hadot, 1995. *Philosophy as a Way of Life*. Blackwell, pp. 264-276.

## 12. Plotinus: contemplation and virtues, Dec 14

Selections from the *Enneads*, book 2.

## Further readings (helpful sources for the essay)

Bobonich, C. (ed.). 2017. *The Cambridge Companion to Ancient Ethics*. Cambridge University Press.

Gill, C. (ed.). 2005. *Virtue, Norms, and Objectivity: Issues in Ancient and Modern Ethics*. Clarendon Press.

Hadot, P. 2002. *What is Ancient Philosophy?* Harvard University Press.

Nehamas, A. 1987. "Socratic Intellectualism". *Proceedings of the Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy*, vol. 22, pp. 275-316.

Rowe, C. 1991. "Ethics in Ancient Greece" Blackwell. pp. 121-132.

Sauvé Meyer, S. 2008. *Ancient Ethics: A Critical Introduction*. Routledge.

## Reading for The History of Ethics: Modern

Before lecture 2: Mary Midgley: The origins of ethics. In *A Companion to Ethics*, ed. Peter Singer.

Before lecture 3: Thomas Hobbes, excerpts from *Philosophical Rudiments*. In *Moral Philosophy from Montaigne to Kant*, ed. J.B. Schneewind

Before lecture 4: David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals* (+introduction). In *Moral Philosophy from Montaigne to Kant*, ed. J.B. Schneewind, pp. 545-555.

Before lecture 5: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin and the Foundation of Inequality Among Men*. In *Moral Philosophy from Montaigne to Kant*, ed. J.B. Schneewind

Before lecture 6: Jens Timmermann, Kant. In *The Cambridge History of Moral Philosophy*, eds. Sacha Golob and Jens Timmermann, pp. 394-409.

Before Lecture 7: Immanuel Kant, *Lectures of Mr. Kant: On the Metaphysics of Morals*. In *Moral Philosophy from Montaigne to Kant*, ed. J.B. Schneewind

Before Lecture 8: John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*. In *Political and Moral Philosophy*, ed. Steven M. Cahn.

Before Lecture 9: Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. In *The Feminist Papers: From Adams to de Beauvoir*, ed. Alice S. Rossi.

Before Lecture 10: Jeffrey Reiman, Marx. In *The Cambridge History of Moral Philosophy*, eds. Sacha Golob and Jens Timmermann.

Before Lecture 11: excerpts from, Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals*.

## Requirements on student

### Requirements

1. Attendance at classes.
2. Reading of obligatory literature and discussion in class.
3. You are required to write a term paper (3500-4500 word range) on a chosen topic from the one we discuss in class. Make sure

you pick a focused topic that is organized around a clear research question and author. Do not merely reproduce basics from the literature, but engage with an issue/question/riddle and provide textual references. We trust you to find your own themes but it is advisable to have us check your topic before you start writing.

4. To obtain the "active participation", we require each participant to regularly submit questions/ commentaries to us. The question/commentary should engage with an aspect of the week's course reading that is particularly difficult/interesting/relevant/thought-provoking or something else that catches your attention. Questions/comments should be about 100-150 words long, and provide some context to make the issue you raise intelligible to the casual reader. You are required to prepare 6 such questions/commentaries for Ancient Ethics and 6 for Modern Ethics.

## Content

Ancient Ethics, Candiottio: Wednesdays 16-18 (it starts at 16 sharp and end at 17:30), G building, Alpha room, 5th floor

1. Introduction to the course - joint session with Antony Fredriksson  
Sep 27
2. Dialogical inquiry and the Greek paideia  
Rescheduled to Monday 2 October, 18-20
3. Plato's Socrates: Elenchus and self-examination  
Rescheduled to Monday 9 October, 18-20
4. The definition of virtue and Socrates' intellectualism  
Oct 18
5. Plato's conception of the soul: harmony and justice  
Oct 25
6. The ethical value of eros and beauty  
Nov 1
7. The idea of the Good and the power of dialectic  
Nov 8
8. Aristotle's perfectionism and eudaimonism  
Nov 15
9. Aristotle's conception of virtue and choice  
Nov 22
10. Aristotle on the good human life  
Nov 29
11. Hellenist Ethics: the ideal of the wise man, and philosophy as a style of life  
Dec 6
12. Plotinus: contemplation and virtues  
Dec 13

Modern Ethics, Fredriksson: Mondays 16-18 (EB 01010)

1. The Renaissance: Humanism  
October 2nd
2. The Enlightenment: Natural Law  
October 9th
3. Thomas Hobbes  
October 16th
4. Spinoza  
October 23rd
5. Leibniz and Descartes  
October 30th
6. Kant 1: Deontology  
November 6th
7. Kant 2  
November 13th
8. John Stuart Mill: Utilitarianism  
November 20th
9. Feminism  
November 27th
10. Karl Marx  
December 4th
11. Nietzsche  
December 11th
12. Postmodernism  
December 18th

## Prerequisites - other information about course preconditions

Proficiency in English language

## Competences acquired

Students will

- (1) acquire knowledge of the main ethical theories of Western Philosophy, from Socrates to Postmodernism;
- (2) develop their understanding of some of the main philosophical debates and practical issues which ethical theories have implications for;
- (3) further develop some core philosophical skills in philosophy: interpreting primary texts, reconstructing and evaluating arguments, engaging with the history of ideas, comparing authors, discussing theories;
- (4) enhance their ability to write an essay which displays critical assessment along with knowledge of the literature.

### Fields of study

### Guarantors and lecturers

- **Guarantors:** doc. Laura Candiotta, PhD.
- **Lecturer:** doc. Laura Candiotta, PhD. (100%)
- **Seminar lecturer:** PhDr. Antony Fredriksson, Ph.D. (100%)

### Literature

### Teaching methods

Monologic (reading, lecture, briefing)  
 Dialogic (discussion, interview, brainstorming)

### Assessment methods

### Course is included in study programmes:

Study Programme	Type of	Form of	Branch	Stage	St. plan	v.	Year	Block	Status	R.year	R.
Ethics and Political Philosophy	Follow-up study	Full-time	Ethics and Political Philosophy	1	2022		2024	Compulsory Courses	A	1	ZS
Ethics and Political Philosophy	Follow-up study	Full-time	Ethics and Political Philosophy	1	2023		2024	Compulsory Courses	A	1	ZS
Ethics and Political Philosophy	Follow-up study	Full-time	Ethics and Political Philosophy	1	2024		2024	Compulsory Courses	A	1	ZS
English Language Teacher Education	Follow-up study	Full-time	English for Education	1	2024		2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
English Language Teacher Education	Follow-up study	Full-time	English for Education	1	2023		2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
English Language Teacher Education	Follow-up study	Full-time	English for Education	1	2022		2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
English Language Teacher Education	Follow-up study	Full-time	English for Education	1	2021		2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
English Language Teacher Education	Follow-up study	Full-time	English for Education	1	2020		2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
English Philology	Follow-up study	Full-time	English Philology	1	2020		2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
English Philology	Follow-up study	Full-time	English Philology	1	2021		2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
English Philology	Follow-up study	Full-time	English Philology	1	2024		2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
English Philology	Follow-up study	Full-time	English Philology	1	2022		2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
English Philology	Follow-up study	Full-time	English Philology	1	2023		2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
Ethics and Political Philosophy	Follow-up study	Full-time	Ethics and Political Philosophy	1	2024		2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
Ethics and Political Philosophy	Follow-up study	Full-time	Ethics and Political Philosophy	1	2022		2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS

Study Programme	Type of	Form of	Branch	Stage	St. plan v.	Year	Block	Status	R.year	R.
Ethics and Political Philosophy	Follow-up study	Full-time	Ethics and Political Philosophy	1	2023	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
Historical Sciences	Follow-up study	Full-time	Cultural History	1	2013	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
Historical Sciences	Follow-up study	Full-time	Cultural History	1	2013	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
History	Follow-up study	Full-time	Gendery History	1	2023	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
History	Follow-up study	Full-time	Gendery History	1	2021	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
History	Follow-up study	Full-time	Gendery History	1	2024	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
History	Follow-up study	Full-time	Gendery History	1	2022	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
History	Follow-up study	Full-time	Historie - Dějiny literární kultury	1	2024	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
History	Follow-up study	Full-time	Historie - Dějiny literární kultury	1	2021	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
History	Follow-up study	Full-time	Historie - Dějiny literární kultury	1	2023	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
History	Follow-up study	Full-time	Historie - Dějiny literární kultury	1	2022	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
History	Follow-up study	Full-time	Historie - Kulturně historická studia	1	2024	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
History	Follow-up study	Full-time	Historie - Kulturně historická studia	1	2021	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
History	Follow-up study	Full-time	Historie - Kulturně historická studia	1	2022	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
History	Follow-up study	Full-time	Historie - Kulturně historická studia	1	2023	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
History	Follow-up study	Full-time	Historie - Kulturně historická studia slovanských zemí	1	2024	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
History	Follow-up study	Full-time	Historie - Kulturně historická studia slovanských zemí	1	2023	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
History	Follow-up study	Full-time	Historie - Péče o kulturní dědictví	1	2023	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
History	Follow-up study	Full-time	Historie - Péče o kulturní dědictví	1	2024	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
History	Follow-up study	Full-time	Historie - Soudobé dějiny	1	2024	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
History	Follow-up study	Full-time	Historie - Soudobé dějiny	1	2023	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
History	Follow-up study	Full-time	Historie - Soudobé dějiny	1	2022	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
Philosophy	Follow-up study	Full-time	Philosophy	1	2022	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
Philosophy	Follow-up study	Full-time	Philosophy	1	2021	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
Philosophy	Follow-up study	Full-time	Philosophy	1	2023	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
Philosophy	Follow-up study	Full-time	Philosophy	1	2024	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
Resocialization Pedagogy	Follow-up study	Full-time	Resocialization Pedagogy	1	2020	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
Resocialization Pedagogy	Follow-up study	Full-time	Resocialization Pedagogy	1	2024	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
Resocialization Pedagogy	Follow-up study	Full-time	Resocialization Pedagogy	1	2023	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS

Study Programme	Type of	Form of	Branch	Stage	St. plan v.	Year	Block	Status	R.year	R.
Resocialization Pedagogy	Follow-up study	Full-time	Resocialization Pedagogy	1	2022	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
Resocialization Pedagogy	Follow-up study	Full-time	Resocialization Pedagogy	1	2021	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
Social and cultural anthropology	Follow-up study	Full-time	Social and cultural anthropology	1	2022	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
Social and cultural anthropology	Follow-up study	Full-time	Social and cultural anthropology	1	2021	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
Social and cultural anthropology	Follow-up study	Full-time	Social and cultural anthropology	1	2023	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
Social and cultural anthropology	Follow-up study	Full-time	Social and cultural anthropology	1	2024	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS
Social and cultural anthropology	Follow-up study	Full-time	Social and cultural anthropology	1	2020	2024	Optional Courses	C		ZS