

HUM103: ETHICS AND CULTURE

SUMMER 2020

GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Faculty Information:

Name	Designation	Email address
Md.Sayeedul Islam Khan (SLK)	Sr. Lecturer	sayeedul@bracu.ac.bd
Rudmila Mahbub (RUM)	Lecturer	rudmila@ bracu.ac.bd
Saudia Islam (SIS)	Lecturer	saudiaislam@bracu.ac.bd
Md. Mostafizur Rahman (MOS)	Lecturer	mostafizur.rahman@ bracu.ac.bd
Shaiya Binte Mahbub Nisa (MBUB)	Lecturer	shaiya.mahbub@ bracu.ac.bd
Tanjin Afrose (TNJ)	Lecturer	tanjin.afrose@bracu.ac.bd
Adiba Sultana Mim (ASM)	Lecturer	adiba.sultana@bracu.ac.bd
Mehedi Hasan (HASN)	Lecturer	mehedi.hasan1@bracu.ac.bd

Course Description:

The main objective of the course is to familiarize students with important ethical thoughts and theories and thus to address the contemporary crucial ethical issues in the world.

Pre-requisites: None

Course Outlines:

WEEK	CLASS	TOPIC
1	1	Ice-breaking and Introduction
	2	The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People: Part- I <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Paradigm Shift</i>➤ <i>The Maturity Continuum</i>➤ <i>First three habits:</i>➤ <i>Habit 1: Be Proactive</i>➤ <i>Habit 2: Begin with The End in Mind</i>➤ <i>Habit 3: Put First Things First</i>
2	3	The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People: Part- II <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Last four habits:</i>➤ <i>Habit 4: Think Win-Win</i>➤ <i>Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood</i>➤ <i>Habit 6: Synergize</i>➤ <i>Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw</i>
	4	Virtue Ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>The function of a human being</i>➤ <i>The Golden Mean</i>➤ <i>How virtuous persons act according to the virtues they inherit</i>

3	5	Asian Philosophy: Confucius <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>How Confucius defined 'Good Life'</i> ➤ <i>Interpret the meanings of several Confucian teachings</i> ➤ <i>Moral hierarchy and the notion of loyalty (Zhong)</i> ➤ <i>Confucian golden rule: empathy (Shu)</i> ➤ <i>Moral cultivation</i> ➤ <i>How the good ruler should be</i>
	1st Examination	
	6	Basics of Ethics and Culture: Part- I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Definition of ethics</i> ➤ <i>The difference between ethics and morality</i> ➤ <i>Etiquette vs. Morality</i> ➤ <i>How morality is understood as the moral institution of life</i> ➤ <i>The difference between morality and customary morality, religion, law</i> ➤ <i>Definition of culture, 5 elements of culture</i>
4	7	Basics of Ethics and Culture: Part- II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Cultural relativism</i> ➤ <i>Cultural differences argument</i> ➤ <i>Consequences of taking cultural relativism seriously</i> ➤ <i>Cultural relativism vs. Universalism</i>
	8	Utilitarianism: Basics (Act Utilitarianism) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Origin of Bentham's utilitarianism</i> ➤ <i>The definition of happiness in terms of pleasure and pain</i> ➤ <i>Hedonistic calculus: The way to measure happiness</i>
5	9	Utilitarianism: Basics (Rule Utilitarianism) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Criticisms of Bentham: Difficulties of calculation (Proof based on bad arguments)</i> ➤ <i>Ideas of John Stuart Mill: The idea of quality happiness</i> ➤ <i>3 order rules to guide action</i> ➤ <i>Difference between act utilitarianism and rule utilitarianism</i>
	10	Duty Ethics: Moral Duties and Obligation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>The concept of supreme principle of morality</i> ➤ <i>The good will</i> ➤ <i>Duty and Emotion- Kantian sense of duty</i> ➤ <i>Maxim</i> ➤ <i>Kant's view of the categorical imperative and hypothetical imperative</i> ➤ <i>Formulations of categorical imperative</i>

6	11	Group Presentation
	12	Justice, Equality and Fairness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>The concept of justice as fairness</i> ➤ <i>The concept the Original Position and the Veil of Ignorance</i> ➤ <i>John Rawls' principles of justice</i> ➤ <i>The Liberty Principle</i> ➤ <i>Fair Equality of Opportunity Principle</i> ➤ <i>The Difference Principle</i>
7	13	Communitarianism: Obligation to the Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Communitarianism and the critique of Rawls' Liberalism</i> ➤ <i>Communitarianism: An application of our own rights and rights of others</i> ➤ <i>Obligation and social responsibilities: the social self and value commitments</i> ➤ <i>Difference between Social Contract Theory and Communitarianism</i> ➤ <i>Aristotle's concept of state and community</i> ➤ <i>Hegel's concept of state and community</i>
	2nd Examination	
	14	Media Ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Definition of Media Ethics</i> ➤ <i>Types of media</i> ➤ <i>Ideal of Journalism profession</i> ➤ <i>Public Right to Know Vs. Individual Right to Privacy</i> ➤ <i>8 Ethical news values developed by Patterson and Wilkins</i>
8	15	Gender and Ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Distinction between gender and sex</i> ➤ <i>Terminologies related to gender</i> ➤ <i>Gender Equality and Gender Equity</i> ➤ <i>Gender Awareness and Gender Sensitivity</i> ➤ <i>Gender Biased and Gender Neutral</i> ➤ <i>Gender Stereotype</i>
	16	Environmental Ethics and Policies: Part- I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Environmental ethics' main concern</i> ➤ <i>3 different patterns of Man-Nature relationship</i> ➤ <i>Impacts that played vital role to evolve man against nature attitude</i> ➤ <i>Anthropocentric Morality and Non-Anthropocentric Morality</i>

9	17	Environmental Ethics and Policies: Part- II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Different approaches of environmental ethics</i> ➤ <i>The Land Ethic</i> ➤ <i>Deep Ecology</i> ➤ <i>The Value of Wilderness</i> ➤ <i>The need of environmental ethics</i> ➤ <i>The application of ethical theories to save the environment</i>
	18	Ethical Dilemma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>What is ethical dilemma</i> ➤ <i>4 paradigms of ethical dilemma</i> ➤ <i>Analysing and Assessing moral dilemmas with the application of moral reasoning</i>
3rd Examination		
10	19	Synthesis Presentation: 1
	20	Synthesis Presentation: 2

Course Assessment Methods:

Worksheet

All students have to submit weekly worksheet on specific lecture topic. Total 10 worksheet papers are required to submit by each student. Each worksheet will carry 2.5 marks. Total 25 marks is allocated for this assignment. The worksheet paper must be reflective and originally produced.

Required format: Times New Roman; 12-point font; 2.0 line-spacing; 300-400words.

Examination

All students are required to give altogether 3 examinations. 1st examination will carry 10 marks, 2nd examination 20 marks and 3rd examination will carry 15 marks. Total 45 marks is allocated for these 3 examinations. These examinations will be designed to test the students' understanding in the course and to assess various course outcomes.

Individual and Group Presentation

Students are supposed to give individual and group presentation on synthesizing the course content

Textbook: None

Supporting Tools:

Reading materials, PPT slides and lecture notes including videos of case studies and other documentaries will be made available through designated online platform and BRACU LMS.

Course Policies:

- Active participation in class discussions is expected and encouraged.
- The instructor reserves the right to make any necessary (announced) changes to the grading scheme or to the syllabus.
- Examination dates will be notified by respective course instructor

- **Plagiarism:** Each student in this course is expected to abide by the BRAC University Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. Copying from another student or copying from published, unpublished or electronic sources without appropriate citations or quotations is **plagiarism**. If there is evidence of plagiarism, **ALL** students involved will automatically receive a zero grade. The penalty for violation of this code can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.
- **Late submissions and examinations:** No late submissions or make-up examinations will be accepted or arranged except for extreme circumstances, conditional on appropriate documentation.

Grading Policies:

Students' grades are assigned according to the grading scale of the BRAC University Undergraduate Study and Examinations Regulations. In addition, the faculty members are allowed to take into consideration the class average and standard deviation to reflect the actual class performance for student grade assignment. Grading will follow the following system:

Marks	Grade	GPA
90 - 100	A	4.0
85 - <90	A-	3.7
80 - <85	B+	3.3
75 - <80	B	3.0
70 - <75	B-	2.7
65 - <70	C+	2.3
60 - <65	C	2.0
57 - <60	C-	1.7
55 - <57	D+	1.3
52 - <55	D	1.0
50 - <52	D-	0.7
<50	F	0.0
I	Incomplete	
W	Withdrawal	
R	Retaken	

Course Assessment Methods:

Method	Marks (%)
Weekly Worksheet	25 %
Examination	45 %
Group Presentation	10 %
Synthesis Presentation (Individual)	10 %
Online Participation	10 %
Total	100 %