Syllabus

Erasmus Mundus Masters Course in Applied Ethics
60 ECTS credits

Institutions

This Erasmus Mundus Masters Course is offered by Linköping University, The Centre for Applied Ethics, (Sweden), Utrecht University, the Ethics Institute, (The Netherlands), and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Department of Philosophy, Programme for Applied Ethics (Trondheim, Norway).

Subject

Applied ethics is a growing, interdisciplinary field studying ethical issues in different areas of society. It includes for instance social and political ethics, medical ethics, bioethics, environmental ethics, business ethics, research ethics, ethics and technology and it also relates to different forms of professional ethics.

Aim

The programme offers a complementary education on master’s level in applied ethics for students already holding a university degree or a professional degree. The aim of the programme is to offer both European students and students from outside the European Union the opportunity to pursue advanced studies in applied ethics.

The students will
- acquire knowledge of ethical theories and different fields of applied ethics,
- develop ability to identify, analyse and critically examine ethical problems and
- develop capacity to argue for a chosen position in discussions on ethics and applied ethics and to formulate (and advise about) strategies for handling ethical dilemmas in different kinds of social practices.

Course descriptions

The programme contains courses in different fields of applied ethics and a master’s thesis on a chosen topic. Mobility structure: students start with a semester in Linköping or Trondheim (NTNU). In the second semester they study at Utrecht University.
SEMESTER 1, 30 ECTS credits

Courses

Common course offered at all institutions:

Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, 7,5 ECTS credits

1. Introduction
The master’s programme starts with a common short introductory course for all students. The introductory course gives an orientation of the master's programme and introductions to ethics and to different areas of applied ethics. Most of the teachers involved in the programme participate in this introduction, which will facilitate students and teachers getting acquainted with each other.

2. Course (at the three institutions)
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 will be studied, like natural law theory, utilitarianism, Kantianism and virtue ethics. Students will learn to apply the theories to practical problems and to criticise and evaluate the theories in the light of their implications for practice.

Linköping University

Business Ethics, 7,5 ECTS credits
Various ethical concepts and theories within the field of business ethics are introduced. Ethics is regarded as a value framework for society and thereby as a framework for business. By introducing methods or models for analysis, the student acquires tools for analysing ethical problems in business. The ability to analyse situations in business and to apply ethical theories to various problems is exercised by discussing case studies

Environmental and Animal Ethics, 7,5 ECTS credits
This course covers the whole range of theories in environmental ethics from various forms of anthropocentrism to sentientism, biocentrism and ecocentrism. The key notion of sustainability is analysed. Moreover, the course covers the whole range of theories in animal ethics from those stressing human interests to those defending animal rights. Various kinds of uses of animals in society are discussed, including animal experimentation. Special attention is given to ethical issues raised by global warming and genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Case studies play a central role.

Globalisation and Global Justice 7,5 ECTS credits
Globalisation is a catch word in today’s political rhetoric. Global interdependence raises many ethical issues. The course focuses on views on globalisation, international relations and theories of global justice. A central topic is the concept of global justice, its different
interpretations, its relation to human rights, its implications for new global actors like NGOs and corporations, its justification and various suggested ways of its implementation.

**NTNU, Trondheim**

**Corporate Responsibility and Ethics, 7.5 ECTS credits**
The pressure on business to take social responsibility has increased the last few decades. Globalization and other structural changes in society and economic life are parts of the reason for this development. Does a strengthening of corporate power mean an increased social responsibility for business? Or is the business realm free from moral responsibility in the pursuit of pure economic gains? This course aims at discussing the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) from a philosophical and ethical perspective, focussing on the relationship between ethical reasoning and economic rationality.

**Technology for a Good Society, 7.5 ECTS credits**
Technology permeates modern societies for better or worse. Faced by the problems of balancing the vices and virtues, various scholars have called for a rethinking of prevailing ideals of just and desirable technology development. This course aims at qualifying the participant’s ability to understand, evaluate and participate in these debates. We shall do so by pursuing questions like: How has technology traditionally been legitimised? How has the dynamical relationships between science, technology and society been modelled? Are there any novel challenges of technology assessment in our time? By entering various cases and technology controversies we shall simultaneously discuss and evaluate implications of various answers given to these questions.

**Biotechnology and Ethics, 7.5 ECTS credits**
The course provides an overview of essential issues related to the development and application of modern biotechnology to medicine and agriculture. The course stimulates case-based reflections on how one may and should approach these issues in view of relevant ethical theories and approaches. Central topics include cloning, genetic therapy and improvement, use of genetic information, GMOs as well as broader sociotechnical questions related to geneticization, risk assessments and precaution, biobanking, patents and commercial applications of research on human life.

**SEMESTER 2, 30 ECTS credits**

**Utrecht University**

**Law, Morality and Policy, 7.5 ECTS credits (optional if Research Ethics course is taken)**
The course focuses on the implications of ethical problems for legislation and policymaking, especially the meaning of the differences between the considerations of individual and private decision-making and considerations of collective and public decision-making.

**Ethics in Medicine and Public Health, 7.5 ECTS credits**
At the present medical ethics encompass not only moral reflection on medical practice, but also analysis of issues in nursing, long term care, prevention and public health. In this course,
students will engage in in-depth analysis of several themes, and discuss moral problems concerning the physician-patient relationship, notably medical decisions at the end of life (euthanasia, physician-assisted suicide, non-treatment decisions). Specific attention is given to autonomy and the value of life. The other major topic is public health ethics: analysis of moral issues in the prevention of disease (vaccination, health promotion) and justice in health care.

**Research ethics, 7.5 ECTS credits (optional)**
This optional course focuses on a specific problem area: using human beings as research subjects. How can we justify such a practice – which is indispensable for progress in healthcare and in medical and social sciences? Students study current debates on equipoise, informed consent, risk/benefit analysis, and benefit sharing. Specific attention is paid to international research, and to the foundation and problems of the way how human subjects research is regulated by means of Research Ethics Committees.

**Master's Thesis (with possible internship), 15 ECTS credits**
In the latter half of the second semester, students concentrate on a selected area of specialisation, conducting supervised thesis research leading to the completion of a master's thesis. Parallel to this the students take part in advanced seminars in ethics. The thesis is to be completed over a period of ten weeks. Although all students work in Utrecht, not all will have an Utrecht teacher as their first supervisor. Depending on their thesis topic, some students will be supervised by Linkoping or Trondheim staff; though they will also have a 2nd supervisor at Utrecht who has specific responsibility for monitoring progress. The language of the thesis is English. In some cases it is possible to combine work on the Master's Thesis with an internship.

**Academic Writing**
Parallel to the courses during the year the students are trained in academic writing.

**Admission Requirements**
Applicants must satisfy either entrance requirements described under A1 below or under A2 below:

A1. The applicant must hold a Bachelor's Degree obtained after at least three years' of study. The degree work should include a thesis or final paper.

Students who cannot submit a final thesis or project works written in English in a subject relevant to the programme in question must enclose a paper of some 500 words of length, written in English, which describes her/his previous studies. The paper should focus on the studies relevant to the master's level programme applied for. It must also describe why the applicant is interested in following the programme.

A2. The programme is also open to applicants holding a professional degree /Bachelor's level/ who have earned at least 30 ECTS credits in the ethics field or in an equivalent field of study.

**Specific requirements**

**Knowledge of English**
Documented knowledge of English equivalent to "Engelska B"; i.e. English as native language or an internationally recognized test, e.g. TOEFL (minimum scores: Paper based 575 + TWE-score 4.5, and internet based 90), IELTS, academic (minimum score: Overall band 6.5 and no band under 5.5), or equivalent.

**Degree results**

The specific requirements will be assessed as not fulfilled if the average grade is in the lower third of the grading scale used in the country where the degree was awarded, that is grades have to be 'average/pass or above (the equivalent to the Swedish grade "Godkänd").

**Letter of Intent**

Each applicant must enclose a Letter of Intent, written in English by the applicant, comprising a motivation why the applicant wishes to follow the programme, and a summary of the degree thesis/degree project.

For those holding a degree that does not require such a degree thesis/degree project the Letter of Intent should describe previous studies and academic activities related to the Master's programme/es applied for.

**Programme specific requirements**

All applicants must have a basic competence in ethics. Previous studies should be in a relevant field such as ethics, religious studies, philosophy or equivalent.

**Professional degree**

All applicants holding a professional degree must submit a paper written in English concerning a subject within the field of (applied) ethics. The paper can be a discussion and analysis of a concrete moral problem in a practical or professional field; or a clarification of a problem in philosophical ethics, moral theology; or an analysis of a moral problem from the perspective of law, political science, etc. The paper should of course be written by the applicant her/himself. The length of the paper should be between 2500 and 3500 words. It is perfectly acceptable for the student to 're-use' a paper written in the context of a (e.g. bachelor's) course in (applied) ethics. In many academic courses, students are required to write longer essays. Papers written during earlier studies are acceptable as long as they do not exceed 5000 words. Please indicate the name and the level of the course for which the paper was originally written.

**Selection**

The MAE Consortium Selection Committee will rank the applicants and put forward a proposal to the degree-awarding institutions regarding preferred candidates. The selection is mainly based on previous academic performance.

**Teaching**

Instruction relies on literature-based lectures and seminars. It also takes the form of individualised reading, tutoring and research supervision.

**Examination**

Examinations will take the form of various kinds of essay assignments that may be complemented by oral or written tests. In the case of the master's thesis, a final presentation
and defence before a discussant and examinators is required in order to obtain the degree. The student must also him/herself be an opponent to another master´s thesis.

Students who have failed an examination are normally allowed to retake it on two additional occasions, one of which should be arranged shortly after the first examination. Students who have failed an exam covering either the entire course or part of the course two times are entitled to have a new examiner appointed for the re-examination. Students who have passed an examination may not retake it in order to improve their grades.

**Grading**
Students are awarded grades according to the ECTS´s grading scale A-F.

Students taking courses in Utrecht will also be given grades according to the Dutch grading system: marks between 1 and 5 (failed) and 6 and 10 (pass).

**Transfer of credits**
The Faculty Board or person nominated by the Board decides whether or not previous education can be transferred into the programme.

**Degree certificate**
This is a multiple degree programme and each university at which the student has studied will award the degree.

Linköping University: The students will be awarded a Swedish Magisterexamen in Applied Ethics (translated to a Master of Arts (60 credits) in Applied Ethics),

Utrecht University: The students are awarded the degree of Master of Arts in Applied Ethics.

Trondheim: The students are awarded the degree of Master of Arts in Applied Ethics.

The degrees are recognized by all the participating institutions, provided all course requirements are completed. The students must fulfill the entrance requirements including proof of a BA (or equivalent).

Students who have successfully completed the courses will be given a Transcript of record over the completed courses.

Linköping: Degree certificates and transcripts of record are issued by the Faculty Board on request. The department provides a special form which should be submitted to the Student Affairs Division.

This general outline was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Sciences 2007-09-19. This outline was revised on 2008-11-20, 2009-11-02 and on 2010-11-10

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