## COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

**NOTE:** ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE
RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

**Academic School/Department:**     General Education

**Programme:**     Combined Studies

**Level:**     3

**Course Title:**     The Philosophy of Ethics

**Course Code:**     FYS 3120

**Course Leader:**     Sara Chetin

**Student Engagement Hours:**     160
Lectures:     30
Seminar / Tutorials:     30
Independent / Guided Learning :     100
**Semester:**

**Credits:**     16 UK CATS credits
 8 ECTS credits
 4 US credits

**Course Description:**

This course is an introduction to ethics, one of most enduring but nonetheless
contentious subjects of virtually all philosophical and religious traditions.
It examines what may be meant by terms such as right and wrong, and discusses some
ways that different cultures have envisioned a 'good', balanced or virtuous life. Students
are encouraged through conversation and debate to think critically about the language of
ethics and the intercultural aspects of the subject, and to engage with real-life ethical
issues as diverse as sexual morality, political violence and honesty (including academic
honesty). Students acquire a knowledge of some basic Western philosophical terminology
to help articulate these issues. Thinkers such as Kant, and Hume from the European
secular tradition are considered along with Christian, Islamic, Buddhist and Taoist texts
among others.

**Prerequisites:  none**

**Aims and Objectives:**

- To engage students in debate about contemporary ethical and political issues
- To develop students' understanding of the philosophical concepts behind ethical
  debate
- To provide students with a framework in which they can critically assess the
  cultural assumptions underlying ethical debate

- To facilitate student awareness of their own group process and develop a self awareness of the group process
- To introduce students to the means by which they can monitor, build and reflect upon their personal development.

**Programme Outcomes:**
At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes.

3A(i,); 3B(i); 3C(i); 3D(i)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an awareness of some of the basic thinkers and concepts of ethical philosophy
- Demonstrate the ability to use basic conceptual vocabulary and recognize 'types' of ethical argument
- Critically assess ethical problems and be able to suggest different strategies for tackling them
- Communicate effectively in groups and individually using appropriate levels of self-reflection and academic presentation
- Demonstrate a reflection of their own academic and social skills and be able to plan for their personal, educational and career development.

**Indicative Content:**

Religious Ethics
Secular Ethics
Cultural Relativity
Non western ethical frameworks
PDP

**Assessment:**
This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

**Teaching Methodology:**

Course meetings consist of interactive lectures on assigned readings, film viewings, group visits, small group discussions and reflection activities. Student work is assessed through a variety of ways using both formative and summative approaches. Feedback is intended to help improved student approach to learning and achieve better results.

**Bibliography:**

*IndicativeText(s):*

Peter Singer, ed., *Ethics*, Oxford University Press, 1994.

*First Year Seminar Handbook and Weekly Planner* (in house booklet)
*Introducing the Personal Development Plan* (in house booklet)

*Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus*

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Change Log for this CSD:

| Major or Minor Change? | Nature of Change | Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC) | Change Actioned by Academic Registry |
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