COURSE DETAIL

APPLIED CONTEMPORARY ETHICS
Country Czech Republic
Host Institution CIEE, Prague
Program(s) Central European Studies
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Philosophy
UCEAP Course Number 108
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title APPLIED CONTEMPORARY ETHICS
UCEAP Transcript Title CONTEMPORARY ETHICS
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units 3.00

Course Description

This course takes the most influential ethical theories and insights of the last 250 years (and particularly the last 50 years) and applies them to the current challenges that face contemporary societies in Europe and America. It explores three broader topics: an individual as a moral subject; justification of a government and an individual as a moral actor in a state; and the concept of justice as a regulatory and an inspirational goal. In each topic, the course examines the groundwork of modern ethical inquiries (such as Kant, Hobbes and Marx) and proceeds through the philosophical tradition, exploring its challenges. Accounts of a rational subject are contrasted with the problems of irrationality, the question of good with the reality of evil, ideas of justice with problems of everyday injustice. Thinkers discussed include Nietzsche and Freud as well as more contemporary ones such as Arendt, Havel, Fromm, Berlin and Rawls. The course applies theoretical concepts to the most urgent ethical issues of our day in Europe, the United States and beyond. The topical themes explored include those emerging from the tension between liberalism and socialism (tax policies, health care, public/private education and media, etc.), those emerging from the tension between religious and secular society (abortion, animal rights, gender issues, environmentalism and climate change, etc.), and those posed by the recently ascendant movements of nationalism and authoritarianism (including racism, xenophobia, delegitimization of journalism and parliamentary debate, etc.). Ultimately, the course considers anew the core pillars of the Western philosophical and democratic tradition and new ways to strengthen them.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
PHIL 3002 PRAG

Host Institution Course Title
APPLIED CONTEMPORARY ETHICS

Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus CIEE Prague
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department History, Philosophy, Religion
Course Last Reviewed 2024-2025

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