

## **Moral Dilemmas**

Professor: Dr. Tamrika Khvtisiashvili

Class hours: To be determined. Once a week. 90 min. each

Email: [tamrikak@gmail.com](mailto:tamrikak@gmail.com)

## **Prerequisite**

This course is appropriate for bachelors or masters students. Intermediate level of English language proficiency is preferable.

## **Course description:**

Through games, simulation, debates and discussion various moral dilemmas will be presented in the classroom. Students will practice forming arguments, establishing strong listening and speaking skills and solving problems in the classroom settings regarding moral dilemmas. The topics will range from immigration to homelessness, death penalty, gender, environmental issues and educational reforms. Debate and presentation skills will be practiced as well as critical reading of texts. This classroom is meant to be interactive with hands-on activities, requiring high participation. The course intends to heighten the proficiency in English language academic skills as well as enhance critical thinking skills, providing a platform for rich, complex, nuanced and honest conversations.

## **Course expectations:**

Empowering students as creators is an essential part of the course. That means we, educators shift our professional thinking and instruction to enable authentic opportunities for students to individually and collaboratively tinker, build, inquire, design, and create. With that in mind, students will develop their own authentic moral dilemmas that they will present to class.

1. Each student will lead a discussion on a specific moral dilemma theme.
2. There will be occasional homework and readings to be done before class. Homework format might range from written to video or audio essays.
3. Students participation and respectful attention to others' participation are the bases of this seminar.

## **Topics** (subject to change based on student interests):

What is Morality?

Right vs Wrong: Ethnocentrism / Relativism

Grey zone

Cultural values and social norms

Value / problem of silence

Moral Dilemma: Education

Moral Dilemma: Immigration  
Moral Dilemma: Capitalism / Socialism  
Moral Dilemma: Animal rights  
Moral Dilemma: Homelessness / Population control  
Moral Dilemma: Technology  
Moral Dilemma: Health care  
Moral Dilemma: Climate justice  
Moral Dilemma: Transgender rights  
Moral Dilemma: Death penalty  
Moral Dilemma: Language rights  
Moral Dilemma: Doing and allowing  
Moral Dilemma: Free speech / Hate speech

Bibliography For the Course (readings will be provided as pdfs by the instructor)

The weight of reasons: a framework for ethics. Chris Tucker - 2024 - New York: Oxford University Press.

Moral-Dilemma Judgments. Bertram Gawronski, Nyx Ng & Michael T. Dale - forthcoming - In Simon Laham (ed.), Handbook of Ethics and Social Psychology. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.

It Would be Bad if Compatibilism Were True; Therefore, It Isn't. Patrick Todd - 2023 - Philosophical Issues 33 (1):270-284.

ChatGPT's Responses to Dilemmas in Medical Ethics: The Devil is in the Details. Lukas J. Meier - 2023 - American Journal of Bioethics 23 (10):63-65.

Within your rights: dissociating wrongness and permissibility in moral judgment. Samuel Murray, William Jiménez-Leal & Santiago Amaya - 2024 - British Journal of Social Psychology 63 (1):340 - 361.

Moral Guilt without Blameworthiness. Jaeha Woo - 2023 - Southwest Philosophy Review 39 (1):201-208.

Invariance violations and the CNI model of moral judgments. Niels Skovgaard-Olsen & Karl Christoph Klauer - 2023 - Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin 1.

The Neuroscience of Moral Judgment. Joanna Demaree-Cotton & Guy Kahane - 2018 - In Aaron Zimmerman, Karen Jones & Mark Timmons (eds.), Routledge Handbook on Moral Epistemology. New York: Routledge. pp. 84–104.

Collective Reasons and Agent-Relativity. Alexander Dietz - 2022 - *Utilitas* 34 (1):57-69.

Hannah Arendt and Isaiah Berlin: Freedom, Politics and Humanity. Kei Hiruta - 2021 - Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

Sensitivity to shifts in probability of harm and benefit in moral dilemmas. Arseny A. Ryazanov, Shawn Tinghao Wang, Samuel C. Rickless, Craig R. M. McKenzie & Dana Kay Nelkin - 2021 - *Cognition* 209 (C):104548.

Moral and Vocational Dilemmas Meet the Common Currency Hypothesis: a Contribution to Value Commensurability. Eleonora Viganò & Edoardo Lombardi Vallauri - 2020 - *Review of Philosophy and Psychology* 11 (1):83-102.

Targeting the Fetal Body and/or Mother-Child Connection: Vital Conflicts and Abortion. Helen Watt & Anthony McCarthy - 2019 - *The Linacre Quarterly*:1-14.

Dual loyalty in military medical ethics: a moral dilemma or a test of integrity? Peter Olsthoorn - 2019 - *Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps* 165 (4):282-283.

Practical Wisdom: A Virtue for Resolving Conflicts among Practical Reasons. Andres Luco - 2017 - In Noell Birondo & S. Stewart Braun (eds.),

*Virtue's Reasons: New Essays on Virtue, Character, and Reasons*. New York: Routledge. pp. 147 - 167.

When Will a Consequentialist Push You in Front of a Trolley? Scott Woodcock - 2017 - *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 95 (2):299-316.