

Course title: Normative Ethics in Public Policy				
Course code: PPS 105		No. of credits: 4	L-T-P: 40-16-0	Learning hours: 56
Pre-requisite course code and title (if any): none				
Department: Department of Policy Studies				
Course coordinator: Dr. Prodipto Ghosh			Course instructor: Dr. Prodipto Ghosh	
Contact details: prodipto@teri.res.in				
Course type: Core			Course offered in: Semester 1	
Course description:				
<p>The course titled “Normative Ethics in Public Policy” is designed to provide the conceptual tools to address the following steps in policy analysis: (i) Prioritizing different societal problematic situations a candidate for policy attention, and (ii) Identifying the proper objectives of proposed policies.</p> <p>The course will rely on real-world policy issues, including several from Indian policy-making, to motivate different themes. The course will include both normative theories, i.e. actual criteria for judging the rightness or otherwise of proposed policy objectives, as well as meta-ethics, i.e. the criteria by which the validity of normative ethical criteria themselves are to be judged.</p>				
Course objectives:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To familiarize the participants with competing normative theories as candidates for helping identify public policy objectives in particular contexts • To familiarize the participants with meta-ethical criteria for evaluating competing normative hypotheses • To create the ability for ethical reasoning and analysis needed for mature participation in society’s Continuing debates over policy issues. 				
Course contents				
Module	Topic	L	T	P
1	Module 1: Levels of Talk about Ethics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Descriptive Ethics ▪ Normative Ethics. ▪ Meta-ethics 	4		
2	Module 2: Normative Ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Theory of Value (Theory of the Good) ▪ Theory of Obligation (Theory of the Right) 	4		
3	Module 3: Types of Normative Ethical Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Axiological Theories of Obligation ▪ Consequentialism ▪ Deontological Theories of Obligation 	4		
4	Module 4: Types of Consequentialism: Consequentialist Theories of Obligation: 1. Egoism 2. Group Chauvinism 3. Universalistic Consequentialism	4		
5	Module 5: Types of Deontological Theory: A. Act Theories B. Rule Theories 1. Single-Rule Theories 2. Multiple-Rule Theories	4		

6	Module 6: Some major normative theories Utilitarianism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ethics of market economics – Pareto Principle, Kaldor-Hicks criterion, basis of cost-benefit Analysis ▪ Libertarianism (Locke) and neo-Libertarianism (Nozick) Theory of Justice (Rawls - Supplemented by concepts by Amartya Sen) 	8	4																					
7	Module 7: What Would A Satisfactory Moral Theory Be Like	2																						
8	Module – 8: Case studies of applications of ethical theories to policy issues (to be done concurrently with the other modules)	10	6																					
9	Module – 9: Students’ group presentation on term-paper based on application of ethical theories to contemporary policy issues in India																							
	Final Presentations		6																					
	Total	40	12	0																				
Evaluation criteria:																								
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Weightage (%)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group Presentation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">:</td> <td>30 %</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Term Paper</td> <td style="text-align: right;">:</td> <td>30 %</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Major Examination</td> <td style="text-align: right;">:</td> <td>40 %</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>						Weightage (%)				Group Presentation	:	30 %			Term Paper	:	30 %			Major Examination	:	40 %		
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Major Examination	:	40 %																						
Learning outcomes:																								
<p>By the end of the course, the students shall be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify public policy objectives in particular contexts (Evaluation: All components) • evaluate competing normative hypotheses (Evaluation: All components) • develop ethical reasoning and analysis needed for mature participation in society’s continuing debates over policy issues (Evaluation: All components) 																								
Materials:																								
Suggested Readings																								
1. Robert L Holmes. Basic Moral Philosophy (Wadsworth Publishing Company 1992)																								
Additional information (if any):NA																								
Student responsibilities:																								
Attendance, feedback, discipline as per university rules.																								

Course reviewers:

Dr. Prodipto Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow, TERI
Dr. Shashi Motilal, Dept. of Philosophy, Delhi University
Prof. Preet Rasgoti, Institute of Human Development (IHD), New Delhi