

ETHICS & MORAL REASONING / HY0001
SEMESTER 1 / AY2024-25
NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Course Description

NTU undergraduates have moral/ethical duties as participants in an institution of higher learning, as citizens of a diverse nation, and as human beings in co-existence with others. HY0001 is a required 1 AU GER online learning course designed to provide NTU undergraduates with an opportunity to analyze and appreciate basic moral/ethical values such as benevolence, impartiality, and integrity. These basic values will be explored from the perspective of several leading ethical theories in contemporary moral philosophy. The ethical theories will serve as benchmarks to facilitate critical thinking on issues that raise difficult moral questions. Students will be challenged to articulate reasoned answers to these moral questions. Also, exercises in moral reasoning will be carried out through a comprehensive study of academic integrity and research ethics. The course will conclude with a discussion of the importance of ethics in thinking about efforts to sustain the natural environment.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the term, you (the student) will be able to:

- Identify the morally relevant features of situations, decisions, and policies, and articulate what makes those features morally relevant.
- Assess whether a moral claim is well-supported by a moral argument.
- Discuss and explain the moral reasons behind rules of Academic Integrity and Research Ethics.

Course Designers

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with contributions from the NTU Teaching, Learning and Pedagogy Division (TLPD)

and technical assistance from the NTU Centre for Information Technology Services (CITS) and Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE).

Course Instructor

Jacob Mok of the NTU Philosophy Programme is the instructor of HY0001 for this semester.

Who to Contact

If you have questions about the course, please email Jacob Mok (jacob.mok@ntu.edu.sg).

If you experience any technical IT-related problems, please report the IT issue to ServiceNow@NTU (<https://ntuadminonestop.service-now.com/ntusp>).

Course Content

HY0001 is an online course. As such, all course content will be delivered online, and you will complete all assignments online. The content of the course is summarized below.

➤ *NTULearn:*

The main portal to access the course content is the NTULearn website for HY0001. All students registered for HY0001 will have access to the NTULearn site.

Log in to NTULearn at <https://ntulearn.ntu.edu.sg>.

➤ *LAMS Lesson Sequences:*

On the NTULearn website, there is a series of “lesson sequences.” The platform for these lesson sequences is the Learning Activity Management System, or LAMS.

The course content is delivered through a total of 14 LAMS lesson sequences numbered from 1 to 13b. The lesson sequences contain video lectures, activities, multiple-choice quizzes, readings, and discussion questions.

The lesson sequences should be completed in order. For instance: before you start lesson sequence 3, be sure to complete lesson sequence 2. With the exception of the Conclusion (lesson sequence 13b), each lesson sequence will take an average of 1 hour to complete.

➤ *Lecture Notes:*

Embedded in the LAMS lesson sequences are a number of video lectures. The Powerpoint slides used in these lectures are also included in the lesson sequences. The Powerpoint files contain additional notes not shown in the video lecture. It's recommended that you review the slides before taking the multiple choice quizzes.

➤ *Readings:*

Readings for the course are posted on NTULearn under “Recommended Readings.” The readings are only recommended for those students who seek a deeper understanding of a topic. The specific contents of recommended readings will not be tested.

Assignments

HY0001 is a 1 AU (academic unit) course. This means that students should expect to devote approximately 1 hour of study per week to this course (in a semester of 13 teaching weeks). Please plan your schedules wisely.

In the coming semester, you are to complete the following assignments by the appropriate deadline (assignment deadlines are listed below):

- 1) **Discussion Question Response:** one response (minimum 300 words) to a discussion question from one of the lessons. Detailed instructions for this assignment are given in the lesson sequences.
- 2) **Peer Evaluation:** one peer evaluation (minimum 100 words) of another student’s response to a discussion question. Detailed instructions for this assignment are given in the lesson sequences.
- 3) **LAMS Lesson Sequences:** completion of all 14 online LAMS lesson sequences (i.e., Sequence 1 through 13b). The online lessons can be found on NTULearn site for HY0001 under “LAMS Lesson Sequences.”
- 4) **Multiple-Choice Quizzes:** completion of 12 multiple-choice quizzes (MCQs). 12 of the 14 lesson sequences have a multiple-choice quiz at the end. For those lesson sequences that contain a quiz, you must complete the quiz in order to complete the lesson sequence. Each quiz has 10 questions. You can attempt the quiz up to 3 times. The score from your last attempt will be used to calculate your final grade.

Grade Assessment

HY0001 is graded on a Pass/Fail basis. Assignments will be counted toward the final grade as follows:

Response to discussion question	10%
Peer evaluation	5%
Completion of all 14 LAMS Lesson Sequences	15%
12 multiple-choice quizzes	70%
TOTAL	100%

Assignment Deadlines

The deadlines for the assignments are as follows. All assignments must be submitted by 2359 hours (i.e., 11:59 pm) on the day of the deadline:

- **All students** must submit their 300-word discussion question response by **Sunday, 09 March 2025 @ 2359 hours**.
- **All students** must submit their 100-word peer evaluation **between Monday, 10 March 2025 @ 0000 hours (i.e., midnight) and Sunday, 13 April 2025 @ 2359 hours**.
- **All students** must complete all 14 LAMS lesson sequences and all 12 MCQs by **Sunday, 20 April 2025 @ 2359 hours**. The multiple-choice quizzes (MCQs) are contained in the lesson sequences; so, by completing the lesson sequences you will also complete the quizzes.

The deadlines and submission windows listed above will be strictly enforced. No student will receive credit for discussion question responses submitted after 09 March 2025 or for a peer evaluation submitted before 10 March 2025 or after 13 April 2025. No student will be credited for LAMS Sequences and MCQs completed after 20 April 2025.

Extension Policy

Extensions will be granted only to those students who can give proof of a medical illness or family tragedy that prevents the timely completion of an assignment. Students must follow official procedures to apply for either medical leave or compassionate leave (*not* a short leave of absence). Click [here](#) for details on how to apply for medical or compassionate leave.

Academic Integrity and the NTU Honour Code

As with all courses at NTU, students are expected to comply with the [NTU Honour Code](#). The Honour Code prohibits violations of Academic Integrity principles such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. The instructor reserves the right to downgrade and pursue disciplinary action against students who have committed academic dishonesty.

It is the student's responsibility to understand the Academic Integrity Policy at NTU. All students should familiarize themselves with NTU's "Academic Integrity" guide (URL: <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/ai/ForEveryone/Pages/AGuidetoAcademicIntegrity.aspx>).

WARNING: Students who attempt to quickly click through the lesson sequences without learning the material are guilty of academic fraud (cheating). In effect, these students are attempting to get credit for completing the lessons without actually doing the work. Students who cheat in this fashion will be subject to the standard penalties for academic dishonesty.

To uphold NTU's academic standards and ensure that only honest work by students is recognized, students who witness acts of academic dishonesty are encouraged to report them to the instructor. It would be most helpful for culprits to be identified by name. The identities of witnesses will be protected.

Use of Generative AI in Assignments

On the use of technological tools (such as Generative AI tools), different courses / assignments have different intended learning outcomes. Students should refer to the specific assignment instructions on their use and requirements and/or consult their instructors on how you can use these tools to help their learning.

While the use of generative AI tools is allowed in this course, their use must be declared through the proper citation of the relevant generative AI sources. As a general rule-of-thumb, using generative AI to generate chunks of text and then copying that text wholesale without proper citation of the generative AI or indicating (using quotation marks) *that the words are not a student's own* will count as academic malpractice.

It is important that students understand that referencing is a good scholarly practice where the writer communicates to the reader the sources (and context) of the information used in a piece of work. The referencing guideline from NTU library (updated to include information on how to cite generative AI sources) is now available. Click [here](#) to see.

Course Overview

Below is an overview of the topics and theories covered in HY0001.

Lesson Sequence	Topic	Recommended Reading	Application
Sequence 01	Introduction to Ethics and Moral Reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Recommended:</i> James Rachels and Stuart Rachels, "What is Morality" (download from NTULearn) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thinking through moral questions (abortion, euthanasia, vegetarianism, the environment)
Sequence 02	Utilitarianism Part 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Recommended:</i> William Haines, "Consequentialism," http://www.iep.utm.edu/conseque/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World poverty
Sequence 03	Utilitarianism Part 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Recommended:</i> William Haines, "Consequentialism," http://www.iep.utm.edu/conseque/ 	
Sequence 04	Deontology Part 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Recommended:</i> J. David Velleman, "A Brief Introduction to Kantian Ethics" (download from NTULearn) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discrimination
Sequence 05	Deontology Part 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Recommended:</i> Onora O'neill, "Kantian Approaches to Some Famine Problems" (download from NTULearn) 	
Sequence 06	Virtue Ethics Part 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Recommended:</i> Nafsika Athanassoulis, "Virtue Ethics," sections 1 – 4, http://www.iep.utm.edu/virtue/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate accountability and whistle-blowing
Sequence 07	Virtue Ethics Part 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Recommended:</i> Nafsika Athanassoulis, "Virtue Ethics," sections 1 – 4, http://www.iep.utm.edu/virtue/ 	

Sequence 08	Academic Integrity Part 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recommended:</i> NTU Teaching, Learning, and Pedagogy Division, "Academic Integrity Handbook," Part A (download from NTULearn) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies in academic integrity
Sequence 09	Academic Integrity Part 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recommended:</i> NTU Teaching, Learning, and Pedagogy Division, "Academic Integrity Handbook," Part B (download from NTULearn) 	
Sequence 10	Intellectual Property and Copyright	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recommended:</i> NTU Teaching, Learning, and Pedagogy Division, "Academic Integrity Handbook," Part C (download from NTULearn) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intellectual property in a digital age: When should online work be considered intellectual property?
Sequence 11	Research Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recommended:</i> NTU Teaching, Learning, and Pedagogy Division, "Academic Integrity Handbook," Part D (download from NTULearn) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying ethical principles for the care and use of human and animal subjects in research
Sequence 12	Environmental Ethics Part 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recommended:</i> Alasdair Cochrane, "Environmental Ethics," http://www.iep.utm.edu/envi-eth/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental sustainability
Sequence 13a	Environmental Ethics Part 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recommended:</i> Robin Attfield, "Sustainability," http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/remotexs.ntu.edu.sg/doi/full/10.1002/9781444367072.wbiee033 	
Sequence 13b	Conclusion		