



CORPORATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data					
Module Title	Ethical Issues in Politics				
Module Code	UZQNGB-30-3	Level		Version	4.1
Owning Faculty	Health and Applied Sciences	Field	Politics		
Contributes towards	BA(Hons) International Relations BA(Hons) International Relations and Politics BA(Hons) Philosophy and Politics BA(Hons) Philosophy BA(Hons) Politics Awards up to BA/BSc(Hons)				
UWE Credit Rating	30	ECTS Credit Rating	15	Module Type	Standard
Pre-requisites	None		Co- requisites	None	
Excluded Combinations			Module Entry requirements		
Valid From	September 2008		Valid to		

CAP Approval Date	
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Part 2: Learning and Teaching	
Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this module students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adapt moral theories to moral issues (e.g. assessment component A, assessment component B, element 2) Evaluate critically moral theories (E.G. assessment component A, assessment component B, element 1) Evaluate critically the arguments involved in moral issues (e.g. assessment component A, assessment component B, element 2) Interpret debates concerning moral issues from different theoretical perspectives (e.g. assessment component A, assessment component B, element 1,2) Compare and contrast the validity of different arguments concerning moral issues (e.g. assessment component A, assessment component B, element 2) Work independently by engaging in a case-study of an ethical issue in politics 9e.g. assessment component B, element 2) Communicate ideas clearly in writing (e.g. assessment component A, assessment component B, elements 1,2) Plan and organise written materials (e.g. assessment component A, assessment component B, elements 1,2) Engage in independent research 9e.g. assessment component B, element 2)
Syllabus Outline	<p>1. <u>Theories of Ethics.</u></p> <p>This part of the course will introduce students to the main theoretical approaches to the study of modern ethics. Theories considered will comprise:</p>

	<p>Subjectivism</p> <p>Relativism</p> <p>Utilitarianism</p> <p>Kantianism</p> <p>Existentialism.</p> <p><u>2. Ethics and Public Policy.</u></p> <p>This part of the course will concentrate on selected moral issues which are important as issues of public policy. Issues which may be examined are:</p> <p>The moral responsibilities of the state</p> <p>The justification for punishment by the state</p> <p>The justification for capital punishment</p> <p>The relationship between law and morality</p> <p>Censorship</p> <p>Abortion</p> <p>War and War Crimes</p> <p>Environmental responsibility.</p> <p><u>3. Ethics and Political Action.</u></p> <p>This part of the course will concentrate on the moral issues which are raised by certain types of political action that individuals might engage in. Topics that may be considered here will comprise:</p> <p>The moral obligations of the individual to the state</p> <p>Civil Disobedience</p> <p>Political violence.</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods	Weekly lectures and seminars
Reading Strategy	<p>A number of key texts will be available in the short-loan section of the Library. Students are expected to identify other reading relevant to their chosen topic for themselves. They will be encouraged to read widely using the library catalogue, a variety of bibliographic and full text databases, and Internet resources. It will be expected that assignment bibliographies and reference lists will reflect the range of reading carried out.</p>
Indicative Reading List	<p>The following list is offered to provide validation panels/accrediting bodies with an indication of the type and level of information students may be expected to consult. As such, its currency may wane during the life span of the module specification. However, as indicated above, CURRENT advice on readings will be available via other more frequently updated mechanisms.</p> <p>Almond B & Hill D (eds) <i>Applied Philosophy</i> - Routledge 1991.</p> <p>Bedau <i>Civil Disobedience in Focus</i> - Routledge 1991.</p> <p>Billington R <i>Living Philosophy</i> - Routledge 1988.</p> <p>Dworkin R <i>A Matter of Principle</i> - Harvard 1985.</p> <p>Glover J <i>Causing Death and Saving Lives</i> - Penguin 1972.</p>

	<p>Hudson W <i>Modern Moral Philosophy 2nd Edition</i> - 1983. Johnson L <i>A Morally Deep World</i> - Cambridge 1991. Lacey N <i>State Punishment</i> - Routledge 1988. Lyons J <i>Ethics and the Rule of Law</i> - Cambridge 1985. MacIntyre A <i>After Virtue</i> - Duckworth. 1981. Raphael D <i>Moral Philosophy</i> - Oxford 1981. Rorty R <i>Contingency, Irony, and Solidarity</i> - Cambridge 1989. Singer P (ed) <i>Applied Ethics</i> - Oxford 1986. Singer P <i>Practical Ethics</i> - Cambridge 1979. Velasquez M & Rostankowski C <i>Ethics</i> - Prentice Hall 1985. Walzer M <i>Interpretation and Social Criticism</i> - Harvard 1987. Walzer M <i>Just and Unjust Wars 2nd Edition</i> - Basic Books 1992.</p> <p><u>Journals</u></p> <p>Ethics Political Studies Journal of Applied Philosophy Political Theory Philosophy and Public Affairs Politics Social Philosophy and Politics</p>
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Part 3: Assessment

Identify final assessment component and element		
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	A: 50	B: 50
First Sit		
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. Three Hour Unseen Examination	50%	
Component B Description of each element		
1. Essay	20%	
2. Case-Study	30%	

Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)	
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)

1. Three Hour Unseen Examination	50%
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)
1. Extended Essay	50%
<p>If a student is permitted an EXCEPTIONAL RETAKE of the module the assessment will be that indicated by the Module Description at the time that retake commences.</p>	