Topics in educational ethics and moral philosophy

Course description: Two principal questions lie at the center of the course: the ethical question concerning “how ought I to live” – achieving a good, full, worthy and satisfying human life; and the pedagogical question concerning the best approaches and means for cultivating, empowering, developing and fostering in the young those qualities that constitute the morally most desirable modes of living. The course will offer an opportunity for close reading of canonical and modern texts that deal with these issues. It shall further deal with the roles and commitments of educators from the point of view of the ethical code of the education profession and in light of past and current dehumanizing cultural and social trends.

Purpose of the course: To better understand the manifold dimensions of and approaches to moral education as well as to utilize the insights and sensitivities explored and experienced in the course for personal and professional growth.

Final examination: An essay exam that addresses and integrates the threefold challenges discussed in the course: of worthy and full life, of sound moral education, and of professional ethics.

Required texts: A course anthology will be provided, which includes excerpts from the following texts:


Aristotle. Nicomachean Ethics – Internet Digital Texts

Bible – Internet Digital Texts


Buddhist Teachings – Internet Digital Texts


Code of Hammurabi – Internet Digital Texts

Confucius. The Great Learning; The Analects – Internet Digital Texts


Lao Tze. *TaoDeChing* – Internet Digital Texts
Nietzsche, F, *The Gay Science; Daybreak* – Internet Digital Texts
Plato. *Crito* – Internet Digital Texts
Spinoza B. *Ethics* – Internet Digital Texts.