



UNIVERSIDADE CATÓLICA PORTUGUESA
INSTITUTO DE ESTUDOS POLÍTICOS

APPLIED ETHICS

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Contemporary societies are currently dominated by morally controversial issues. Abortion, euthanasia and the so-called “animal rights” are only a few of the topics that dominate today’s media and political agenda.

The objective of this course is to critically analyse some of these issues, which constitute the fundamental core of Applied Ethics – one of the fields dedicated to ethical reflection, together with Metaethics and Normative Ethics. Thus, this course will focus on classic or current texts of philosophical reflection on the proposed themes, as well as on audiovisual documents of scientific relevance.

I. Ethics: An Introduction

1. Moral dilemmas
2. Moral particularism and moral generalism
3. Free will and determinism
4. ‘First order Ethics’ and ‘second order Ethics’
5. The problem of moral relativism

II. Metaethics

1. Cognitivism: Transcendentalism, Naturalism and Intuitionism
2. Non-cognitivism: Emotivism and Prescriptivism

III. Normative Ethics:

1. Utilitarianism: Bentham, J.S. Mill and the Neo-Utilitarians
2. Deontological Theories
3. Virtue Ethics

IV. Applied Ethics:

1. Abortion
2. Euthanasia
3. Genetic engineering
4. Animal rights
5. Free Speech
6. Judicial torture
7. Death penalty

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

In addition to the specific texts regarding the issues under analysis and which will be provided to the students over the course of the sessions, the following general reference works are also recommended:

Cahn, Steven M. *Exploring Ethics: An Introductory Anthology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Cahn, Steven M. e Peter Markie, orgs. *Ethics: History, Theory, and Contemporary Issues*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Cohen, Andrew I. e Christopher Heath Wellman, orgs. *Contemporary Debates in Applied Ethics*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2005.

Frey, R.G. e Christopher Heath Wellman, orgs. *A Companion to Applied Ethics*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2005.

Sterba, James P, org. *Ethics: The Big Questions*. 2^a ed. Chichester: Wiley Blackwell, 2009.

Stewart, Noel. *Ethics: An Introduction to Moral Philosophy*. Londres: Polity, 2009.