Moral Philosophy | PIU33023

Year	Junior Sophister
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	22 (11 x 2-hour seminars)
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	1
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr Richard Teague
Contact Email	[tcd email pending]

Module Outline:

This module will give students a strong grounding in the core elements of moral philosophy: metaethics, normative ethics, and applied ethics. In the beginning of term we will address metaethics, exploring philosophical problems associated with how we interpret moral language and understand basic moral concepts and the idea of moral truth. Subsequently we will learn the essentials of the three most influential normative ethical theories: virtue ethics, utilitarianism, and deontological ethics. We will review classic puzzles and problems pertaining to each of these schools of thought before turning, in the last weeks of term, to applied ethics. Here we will discuss two cases, abortion and euthanasia, and evaluate debates on these topics through the lenses of each of the ethical theories covered in the earlier part of the module.

Key Topics:

- Moral realism and anti-realism
- Relativism and Error Theory
- Intrinsic and instrumental values
- Qualitative and quantitative conceptions of value
- Virtue and moral character
- Utilitarianism and Means-End Reasoning
- Duty, autonomy, and dignity

Assessment:

1 Essay (end of module) 50%; 1 Exam question (end of module) 50%.

Recommended Reading List:

Detailed reading lists for the different stages of the module will be provided at the start of term. The following are strongly recommended as introductory reading:

- Sayre-McCord, Geoff, "Metaethics", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Spring 2023 Edition)
- Wittgenstein, L. 'A Lecture on Ethics', *The Philosophical Review*, Vol. 74, No. 1 (1965), pp. 3-12