GPH S6 04 (M)

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# APPLIED ETHICS

## SEMESTER VI

## PHILOSOPHY

## BLOCK 1

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

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## COURSE INTRODUCTION

This course introduces to you the subject of Applied Ethics. Here you will study the concepts and meaning of applied ethics. Except this you will be learned the different issues like environmental ethics, human rights, capital punishment, bioethics, feminist ethics etc. It will also deal with some other topics like abortion, euthanasia etc.

## BLOCK INTRODUCTION

This course consists of two blocks. The first block consists of eight units. First unit of this block is 'The Concepts of Applied Ethics'. After going through this unit, you will be able to know the concept of Ethics, Areas of Ethics, Meta Ethics, Normative Ethics, Applied Ethics, and Nature of Applied Ethics. It also explores the relationship of applied ethics and Philosophy, Different fields of Applied Ethics, three Important Theories associated with Applied Ethics, and Some important principles on Applied Ethical discussion

The name of the second unit of this block is 'Environmental Ethics'. It includes the concepts of Emergence of Environmental Ethics, Perspectives on Environmental ethics, Anthropocentrism, Non-anthropocentrism, Biocentrism, Eco-centrism, and Criticisms.

'Bioethics' is the third unit of this block. This unit introduces to you the concept of bioethics. After going through this unit you will be able to know that bioethics is a part of applied ethics. Unlike other traditional ethics, bioethics tries to explore some of the important real life issues like abortion, euthanasia, animal ethics, environmental issues, stem cell research, and reproductive issues like IVF etc. from the moral perspective. Now let us study and discuss the concept of bioethics in more details.

The fourth unit of course one is 'The Media Ethics'. After going through this unit you will be able to know that Media ethics is the subdivision of applied ethics dealing with the specific ethical principles and standards of media, including broadcast media, film, theatre, the arts, print media and the internet. The field covers many varied and highly controversial topics, ranging from war journalism to advertising.

The fifth unit of this course is 'Capital Punishment'. After going through this unit, one will be able to Know about capital punishment, the frequently discussed issue in media. You will also know how it is related to the core agenda of philosophy. After going through this unit you will be able to analyze different theories of punishment and will be able to find out the possible justification for and against capital punishment and will understand its relevance as well as its proper execution in the present social phenomenon.

The sixth unit of this block is Human Rights. It gives you the knowledge of what are Human Rights, Moral Rights, Legal Rights, and Moral Universalism. Apart from this, it also discusses Rights and Duties, Claim Rights, Liberty rights, Right priorities, Contemporary Debates, Interest theory, and Will theory.

The seventh unit is 'Animal Rights'. After going through this unit you will able to know the meaning of rights and its relation to animals, the arguments for and against animal rights, the values of the lives of the member of moral community etc. You will also able to know which things are wrong to do with animals and will also able to know whether animals posses moral status or not.

The name of the eighth unit is 'Abortion'. In this unit we are going to learn and discuss about the meaning and definitions of abortion, the religious, socio-cultural and legal issues of abortion, the utilitarianism, Kantian ethics and the problem of abortion, the abortion and the ethics and the problem of abortion, the moral dimension of abortion and reproductive issues and technologies.

While going through this course you will come across some boxes which are put on the left side or right side of the text. These boxes will give us the meanings of some words and concepts within the text. Apart from this, there will be some broad and short questions included under Activity and Check Your Progress in every unit. Activities will increase our thinking capacity because questions put in Activity are not directly derived from the text. But answers to the short questions are put in the section Answers to Check Your Progress. Besides, there are some text-related questions which are put in Model Questions. These questions will help you in selecting and mastering probable topics for the examination so that you can prepare for the examination with confidence.