

**EDUC 437 - 4 Ethical Issues in Education**

**Wednesdays 16:30 - 20:20 MPX 8651/2**

**Section: E1.00 Catalogue #77350**

Instructor: T. Kazepides

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**PREREQUISITE**

60 credit hours

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The aim of this course is to demarcate the domain of moral education and to examine its nature and its various components. The course should be valuable to teachers, prospective teachers, educational administrators, and all serious students of education.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- a) A short-seminar presentation.
- b) A follow-up final paper of about 10-15 typewritten double spaced pages on a topic approved by the instructor. Students are encouraged to submit the first draft of their paper to the instructor for comments and then rewrite it for marking. The paper is due on the last day of classes.

**OUTLINE OF TOPICS**

1. THE NORMATIVE CHARACTER OF EDUCATION
  - \* Scheffler, "The Concept of the Educated Person" (1995).
2. THE PREREQUISITES OF MORAL EDUCATION
  - \* Kazepides, "On the Prerequisites of Moral Education: A Wittgensteinian Perspective".
  - \* Hamm, "Moral Education as the Achievement of Virtue".
3. RELIGION AND MORAL EDUCATION
  - \* Rachels, (Ch.4).
  - \* Kazepides, "Religious Indoctrination & Freedom".
4. CULTURAL RELATIVISM AND MORAL EDUCATION
  - \* Rachels, (Ch. 1 & 2).
5. SUBJECTIVISM IN ETHICS
  - \* Rachels, (Ch. 3).
6. UTILITARIANISM AND MORAL EDUCATION
  - \* Rachels, (Ch. 7 & 8).
7. ARE THERE ABSOLUTE MORAL PRINCIPLES
  - \* Rachels, (Ch. 9 & 10).
8. THE ETHICS OF VIRTUE
  - \* Rachels, (Ch. 12).

**REQUIRED READINGS**

1. Rachels, James. The Element of Moral Philosophy. Toronto: McGraw Hill Publishing Co. ISBN 0-07-051098-9
2. Handouts.

**RELATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- \* Peter Singer, A Companion to Ethics
- \* Mike Martin, Everyday Morality
- \* Louis Pojman, Ethics: Discovering Right and Wrong
- \* David Carr, Educating the Virtues
- \* Edmund Pincoffs, Quandaries and Virtues
- \* Paul Johnston, Wittgenstein and Moral Philosophy
- \* Roger Straughan, Can We Teach Children to be Good?

Semester 96-2 Session: Regular

Instructor: H. Bai

EDUC 437 - 4 Ethical Issues in Education

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Section: E1.00

Scheduled Final Exam: No

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**PREREQUISITE**

60 credit hours

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

It has even been argued that we should conceive of the whole of education as a moral project. This might be a bit of hyperbole, but in it we readily recognize the wisdom that, beside rendering us rational and practically competent, education should further us in the direction of becoming moral beings, able to lead personally and communally harmonious lives. This course explores philosophically challenging issues underlying the conception of moral life and moral learning. a particular focus in this course rests on the notion, increasingly emphasized in contemporary ethics, that moral perception, emotion, and self-formation are prerequisite to the whole of moral performance. Also, we shall examine the notion (as a special case of self-formation), central to Buddhism, Taoism, and to an extent Confucianism, that compassion-based morality requires overcoming of the autonomous, separate self.

**OBJECTIVES**

Topics:

1. Historical survey
2. Moral perception
3. Emotions in morality
4. Empathy and compassion
5. Morality as transformation of self
6. Morality as deconstruction of the egoic conception of self

**REQUIREMENTS**

One long paper or two small papers.

**READINGS** Reserved readings and articles will be available in the SFU library.