

## **Philosophical Ethics**

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What do we talk about when we talk about ‘ethics’? Is it possible to tell right from wrong? Can we judge a practice outside its cultural context? And what is the real source of moral requirements? Those are just few of the questions that have exercised philosophers from ancient times to the present. In this seminar we shall explore, though an examination of specific cases, the major concepts, methods, and principles that inform contemporary research into the meaning, the limitations, and the prospects of moral life.

### **Workshop Summary - Applied Ethics**

#### **SCIENTIFIC CHALLENGES AND MORAL DILEMMAS**

This workshop shall deal with central issues in contemporary applied ethics. We shall focus on moral dilemmas which arise, due to recent developments in science and technology, in the areas of medical ethics, bioethics and environmental ethics. More particularly we will discuss moral quandaries related to euthanasia, cloning and the protection of the environment. We will take into consideration material coming from various sources, drawing on the relevant philosophical bibliography, public debates in the media, political confrontations at a global level, as well as artistic creation, especially literature and cinema. We will reflect upon theses and arguments put forth by philosophers, social scientists, artists and policy makers, in different forms, and try to reach some preliminary conclusions about theoretical proposals and practical guidelines which may affect the welfare of citizens of contemporary states, but also of future generations. The films and the novels that will be discussed include *Bladerunner*, *Gattaca*, *Never Let Me Go*, and *The Sea Inside*.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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May, Larry Collins-Chobanian, Shari & Wong Kai, *Applied Ethics: A Multicultural Approach*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 1998.

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