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RĪGAS TEHNISKĀ
UNIVERSITĀTE

RTU Course "Basic Ethics"

33000 Faculty of Computer Science, Information Technology and Energy

General data

Code	HFL336
Course title	Basic Ethics
Course status in the programme	Courses of Free Choice
Responsible instructor	Laila Girsova
Academic staff	Sandra Stašāne
Volume of the course: parts and credits points	1 part, 3.0 credits
Language of instruction	LV, DE
Annotation	The study course examines the origin of normative thinking in 2/1 thousand BC, as well as the essential role of this phenomenon in the creation of modern man is clarified. In this regard, the main directions of ethics, its categorical structure and philosophical substantiation are considered. In addition, the mechanism of moral regulation of public relations is discussed and its practical role in motivating human actions in specific life situations is defined. Among other things, students are introduced to the RTU code of ethics. The study course concludes with a theme about moral issues in modern society and the latest discussions in the fields of ethics and philosophy.
Goals and objectives of the course in terms of competences and skills	The aims of the study course: - teach how to constructively analyse the history of human ethical ideas, to be able to evaluate their social normative nature and to be able to competently judge the cultural-historical contexts of modern ethics; - to promote the ability to orient oneself in the democratic values prevailing in modern society, to consciously cultivate them and to be able to implement the respective positive beliefs in practical life; - to develop the ability to assess in personal experience that only a conscience oriented towards responsibility is the main moral competence of each member of society. Study course task: - to improve the students' ability to orientate in ethical dilemmas; - to present the most topical discussions in the media environment about moral and ethical problems.
Structure and tasks of independent studies	Tasks: -acquisition and incorporation of the indicated literature in the specific topic of the report; - skilful choice of the topic of the report within the proposed general topic; - collection and compilation of facts, data; - independent interpretation of the topic of the report; - preparation for the intended seminar topics.
Recommended literature	Obligātā/Obligatory: Lasmane S., Milts A.,Rubenis A. Ētika. -Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 1993 Lasmane S.Rietumeiropas ētika. No Sokrāta līdz postmodernismam. -Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 1998 Milts A. Ētika. Kas ir ētika. -Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 1999 Milts A. Ētika.Personības un sabiedrības ētika.-Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 2000 Milts A. Ētika. Saskarsmes ētika.-Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC,2004 Rubenis A. Ētika XX gadsimtā. Praktiskā ētika. -Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 1996 Papildu/Additional: Lasmane S. 20.gadsimta ētikas pavērsieni. -Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 2004 Rietumeiropas morāles filozofija.Antoloģija.S.Lasmanes sakārtojums. - Rīga: LU Akadēmiskais apgāds, 2006 Filozofija tekstu fragmentos.Antoloģija.Sastādījis V. Cers.- Rīga: RTU Izdevniecība, 2007 Burkhards H. Ievads ētikā: Tikumiskas rīcības pamati un normas (fundamentālā ētika). - Rīga: Svētdienas Rīts, 1999. Jurgen Habermas. Moralbewustsein und komunikatives Handeln.-Frankfurt am Mein: Suhrkamp, 1999. Bauman Z. Life in Fragments: Essays on Postmodern Morality. London: Blackwell, 1995. Portmore, Douglas W. Commonsense Consequentialism: Wherein Morality Meets Rationality. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.
Course prerequisites	General and Cultural History.

Course contents

Content	Full- and part-time intramural studies		Part time extramural studies	
	Contact Hours	Indep. work	Contact Hours	Indep. work
Leap in the development of human consciousness 2 / 1st thousand BC. Formation of abstract and normative thinking.	6	6	2	10
Schools and subtypes of ethics. History and theory of ethics. Ethics, morality, virtue.	8	8	3	12
Moral regulation. Levels of moral obligation. Moral evaluation and sanctions. Ethical code of RTU.	6	6	3	14
The problem and ethics of a person's social alienation. Division of labour, public and social justice, liberty, responsibility	8	8	2	10
The instability of moral values nowadays and the role of ethics in the personality development.	10	10	4	16

Final test.		2	2	2	2
	Total:	40	40	16	64

Learning outcomes and assessment

Learning outcomes	Assessment methods
Is able to define, characterize and use the key notions of ethics in the analysis of social relations	Test, argumentative participation in seminar discussions.
Is able to precisely formulate and defend one's ethical convictions in a justified manner while discussing different opinions.	Correct and constructive participation in seminar discussions.
Is able to fulfil one's study obligations responsibly and initiatively, paying special attention to independent work.	Well-planned work on the report and its successful presentation.
Is able to give specific examples from one's own personal and social experience demonstrating the understanding of the mechanism and regularities governing the functioning of morality.	Presentation of a reflection story.
Is able to independently analyse a specific moral situation in the social relations and to make an ethically justified choice.	Panel discussion.
Is able to assess the moral aspects of professional activities and to precisely know and fulfil one's study obligations stipulated in the ethical code of RTU.	Practical research presentation.

Evaluation criteria of study results

Criterion	%
Test work, reasoned participation in seminar discussions	10
Correct and constructive participation in seminar discussions	10
Thoughtful preparation of the report and successful presentation	30
Presentation of a reflection story	10
Panel discussion	10
Presentation of practical research	30
Total:	100

Study subject structure

Part	CP	Hours			Tests			Tests (free choice)		
		Lectures	Practical	Lab.	Test	Exam	Work	Test	Exam	Work
1.	3.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	*					