

Dewan Abdul Gani College

Harirampur, Dakshin Dinajpur

Name of the Add-on Course: Literature and Ethical Decision Making: An Introduction

Course Code: CC-ENG-PHIL-07-LED

Offered jointly by the Departments of ENGLISH & PHILOSOPHY

Duration: 30 hours (1 Dec. – 18 Dec)

The Course is JOINTLY coordinated by:

Dr. Satarupa Sinha Roy (Dpt. Of English) & Shri Kaleswar Barman (Dpt. of Philosophy)

Course Instructors: Dr. Satarupa Sinha Roy, Shri Kaleswar Barman, Shri Babulal Murmu,
Shri Swapan Saha, Smt. Lovely Bosu

Learning Objectives:

In our everyday lives we encounter many diverse viewpoints held and expressed by the people we come in contact with. While some of those views might seem wrong to us, we do realize that those same views might (and do) appear right to others. The line demarcating the right from the wrong is often not as clear as we would like to imagine. Oftentimes, we have to decide between alternatives whose rightness or wrongness cannot (and should not) be determined through superficial evaluations. How shall we determine and choose the 'right' path in such situations? How shall we practice ethical decision making? Practicing ethical decision making can not only help us maintain a supportive and empathetic organizational culture — be it in an academic setting or beyond — but also fortify our values and boost social & communal wellbeing.

The primary objective of this interdisciplinary add-on course is to help build a robust foundation for independent critical thinking around common ethical questions and decision points and to provide participants (young adults) with social and emotional learning.

Through a general discussion of literary texts (serving as case studies) alongside introductory lectures on ethics & morality, this add-on course seeks to expose participants to contrasting viewpoints, encouraging them to develop and hone their critical thinking skills. Besides, it also seeks to sensitize them to the dangers of faulty rationalization and to better prepare them for bigger and more complex life issues.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- integrate classroom learning with bigger and more general life issues
- make more ethically-informed choices
- have a firmer grasp over the rationale of decision making and apply the knowledge in everyday contexts
- become more aware, empathetic, conscientious, and responsible citizens

Evaluation Method:

Following the successful completion of 30 hours' of teaching (contact class), participants will be evaluated through a test conducted in the contact/ offline mode.

The **50-marks test** consists of **2 Modules** comprising 25 marks each:

Module I (Full Marks: 25): Participants will be evaluated on the basis of their overall participation and performance in the classroom.

Module II (Full Marks: 25): Participants will be evaluated on the basis of 25 Multiple Choice Questions (MSQ-s), with each question carrying 1 mark.

The minimum percentage for passing each module: 40% or 10 marks (out of 25 marks).

Those who complete the course successfully will be given a Certificate of Completion, issued by the college authority.

Eligibility:

Any student currently enrolled in an Undergraduate Course (3 Year-Honours/ General/ 4 Year-Degree) in Dewan Abdul Gani College is eligible take this course.

Fee Structure:

This course is offered **free** of cost to all enrolled students.

Certificate details:

Upon successful completion of the course, a **Certificate of Completion** issued by Dewan Abdul Gani College will be given to each participant.

Course Structure & Content:

Unit-1: a) Why Study **Literature**?

b) Literature and **Decision Making**

Unit-2: a) What do we understand by **Ethics** and **Morality**?

b) What is an **Ethical Dilemma**?

b) Ethics and Morality in Everyday Life

Unit-3: How Do We Make **Decisions**?

Unit-4: The Role of Ethics & Morality in Decision Making

Unit-5: Ethical Decision Making & Literature: Some Case Studies

5.1. The Individual & the Society

A **general discussion** on the following texts undertaken:

Plato's *Euthyphro*

Sophocles' *Antigone*

Conrad's "The Secret Sharer"

Ibsen's *The Enemy of the People*

5.2. The Individual and the Environment

A **general discussion** on the following texts (**Petrofiction & Climate Fiction**) undertaken:

Abdul Rahaman Munif's *Cities of Salt*

Helon Habila's *Oil on Water*

J.G. Ballard's *The Wind from Nowhere*

5.3. The Human and the Nonhuman

A **general discussion** on the following texts (Petrofiction & Climate Fiction) undertaken:

Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty*

Jack London's *The Call of the Wild*

J. M. Coetzee's *The Lives of Animals & Disgrace*

Unit-6: Ethical Dilemmas & Decision Making in Everyday Life: Some Common Contexts

a) Integrity b) Compassion c) Discrimination d) Loyalty e) Fairness

Recommended Reading:



1. *A Very Short Introduction to Ethics* by Simon Blackburn
2. *Thinking and Reasoning: A Very Short Introduction* by Jonathan St B. T. Evans
3. All the literary texts discussed in the classroom.*

*It is **recommended** that the participants make themselves **familiar** with **all the literary works** discussed in the course of the lectures.

Given the **foundational/ introductory** nature of the course, detailed study of the texts is neither required nor expected from the participants of this add-on course.