



## Worldviews and Ethics

### DESCRIPTION

In what does happiness consist? Is freedom genuine or only apparent? Does a person have a way of distinguishing between moral good and evil?

These questions are perennial ones, and have received very different replies in the course of history. The present course focuses on answers offered by a small selection of philosophies and religions, ancient and modern, western and eastern, with the object, firstly, of understanding their different ways of looking at reality; secondly, of critically evaluating their way of thought; and thirdly, of comparing them to see interesting similarities and differences.

This course is actually the second half of a more extensive course lasting two semesters, but may be taken as an independent subject in the second semester. It covers the following worldviews: the Stoics, Aristotle, Buddhism, Islam, Nietzsche, and Mounier (Personalism).

This course belongs to the Core Curriculum of the University of Navarra.

### CREDITS

3 ECTS (note: for ILCE students this course may be combined with "Worldviews & Texts" to yield a total of 6 credits)

### CONTACT HOURS

30 hours

### PREREQUISITES

None

### GOALS

The three main goals of this course are the following:

- (1) To identify the most relevant issues of human existence as found in the great religious, humanistic, and scientific systems, and to develop a personal, reasoned response to these issues.
- (2) To learn a critical and reflexive approach to the interconnected character of philosophical, religious, anthropological, social, and economic perspectives.
- (3) To discover and evaluate the anthropological foundations as well as the ethical implications of economic thought.

### COMPETENCIES

After this course you will be able to:

- Know and appreciate diversity and multiculturalism, developing the values of respect and the capacity to comprehend different points of view and ways of life
- Understand and critically evaluate different ideas on the human person and society
- Understand the various aspects -historical, philosophical, religious, linguistic, artistic- that integrate specific worldviews

- Employ ideas from the course to reflect on current ethical and social issues.

## ASSESSMENT

Students will be evaluated based on their achievement of the program, which will be measured through the following components:

Components	Percentage
Participation in class and attendance	25%
Exam 1	35%
Exam 2	40%
TOTAL	100%

### Participation in class and ILCE activities (25%)

Each student will self-assess their participation twice per semester. The instructor reserves the right to raise or lower each student's self-assessed participation grade if they feel that it does not adequately reflect the student's participation level. The participation grade involves a number of variables, including, but not limited to the following:

- Students' willingness to participate in all class activities:
  - Avoiding the use of cell phones, laptops or electronic devices for purposes not related to the class.
- Students' cooperation during groupwork and pairwork
- Students' respect and attitude toward the instructor, class, peers, and invited guests (if there were any).

### PARTICIPATION IN ILCE ACTIVITIES:

Your participation grade will also be based on participating in activities organized by the Spanish Club. You have to participate in an ILCE activity at least once every two weeks. If a student is unable to attend ILCE activities due to an overlap in their schedule, they must let the instructor know at the beginning of the semester so that they can look for alternative ways to assess the student's participation.

\*\*Follow our Instagram and join the WhatsApp group to know more about the activities organized by the Spanish Club.

### Exam 1 (35%)

Exam 1 will cover the first 3 topics. It will contain short questions on key concepts of the worldviews of Buddhism, Aristotle and Stoicism. It will also contain an essay question: compare any 2 of the 3 worldviews as regards their conception of the human person, the world, the divinity; as well as their ideas of human happiness and its attainment.

### Exam 2 (40%)

Exam 2 will mostly cover the last three topics. It will contain short questions on key concepts of the worldviews of Islam, Nietzsche and Mounier. It will also contain a more general essay question: choose any 1 of the 3 worldviews studied in the first half of the course, and choose any 2 of the the 3 worldviews studied in the second half; then simultaneously compare the 3 chosen worldviews as regards their conception of the human person, the world, the divinity; as well as their ideas of human happiness and its attainment.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Because of the communicative nature of this course, you need to attend class every day. Absences with no official documentation will result in the deduction of one percentage point from your final grade (of 100 total points). Any student with more than 8 unexcused absences will automatically fail the course. Absences need to be excused either before the student is absent or one classroom day after being absent. Late arrivals or early departures from class will also be counted as absences (3 occurrences = 1 absence). It is the student's responsibility to notify their instructor ahead of time of any absences and to contact their classmates to know what they missed in class and the homework that was assigned.

**To receive credit for missed assignments** (*achievements, homework, compositions, etc.*) students need to bring official documentation and submit them as well as letting their instructor know.

### ADDITIONAL GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

**Cell Phone, Laptop Tablets, or any electronic device in the Classroom:** Please be courteous and **turn off your cell phone before the start of each class.** We also request that you *do not use* a laptop computer during class without expressly being invited to do so by your Instructor (e.g., during a Writing Workshop). Your full attention needs to be committed to communicating in Spanish with your teacher and classmates during each class.

**Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism, cheating, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, tampering with the academic work of others and other forms of academic dishonesty may lead to lowered course grades, failure of the course or more severe measures, depending on judgments of the gravity of the individual case.

**Code of Student Conduct:** Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting or is clearly disrespectful of the instructor or fellow students will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include but is not limited to: 1. Rude or disrespectful behavior; 2. Unwarranted interruptions; 3. Failure to adhere to instructor's directions; 4. Vulgar or obscene language, slurs, or other forms of intimidation; 5. Physically or verbally abusive behavior. Student behavior that is inappropriate will result in disenrollment from the course.

**Extra Credit:** No additional extra credit will be given under any circumstances.

## COURSE OUTLINE

Part. I: Human fulfillment and freedom. Is the human being truly free, or ruled by destiny? Can one do anything one desires? What does it mean to be free?

Part I: Good and evil. How can an action be qualified as "good" or "bad"? What does it mean to be "good"? The connection between a given worldview (conception of man, the world, God) and moral conduct.

Part III: Critical examination of diverse answers:

Two philosophies of Ancient Greece:

- Aristotle's philosophy. Brief biography of Aristotle. The ingredients of happiness. The quest for human excellence.

- Stoicism: Brief history of stoicism. The logos, rational principle of the universe and the human person. The practice of equanimity (apatheia).

Two religions:

- Buddhism. Brief biography of Siddhartha Gautama. The Four Noble Truths. Buddhism as escape from suffering.
- Islam. Brief biography of Mohammed. Islam's basic doctrines. Islam's Five Pillars. Islam as submission of the human being to God.

Two philosophers of the modern era:

- Nietzsche. Brief biography of Nietzsche. The morals of the superman (Übermensch)
- Mounier and Personalism. Brief biography of Mounier. The material and spiritual dimensions of the human person. Fulfillment through communion with other persons.

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

### **Course Website**

*The professor will provide all the required materials through ADI.*

Aula Virtual ADI (Blackboard). It is essential that students check ADI daily.